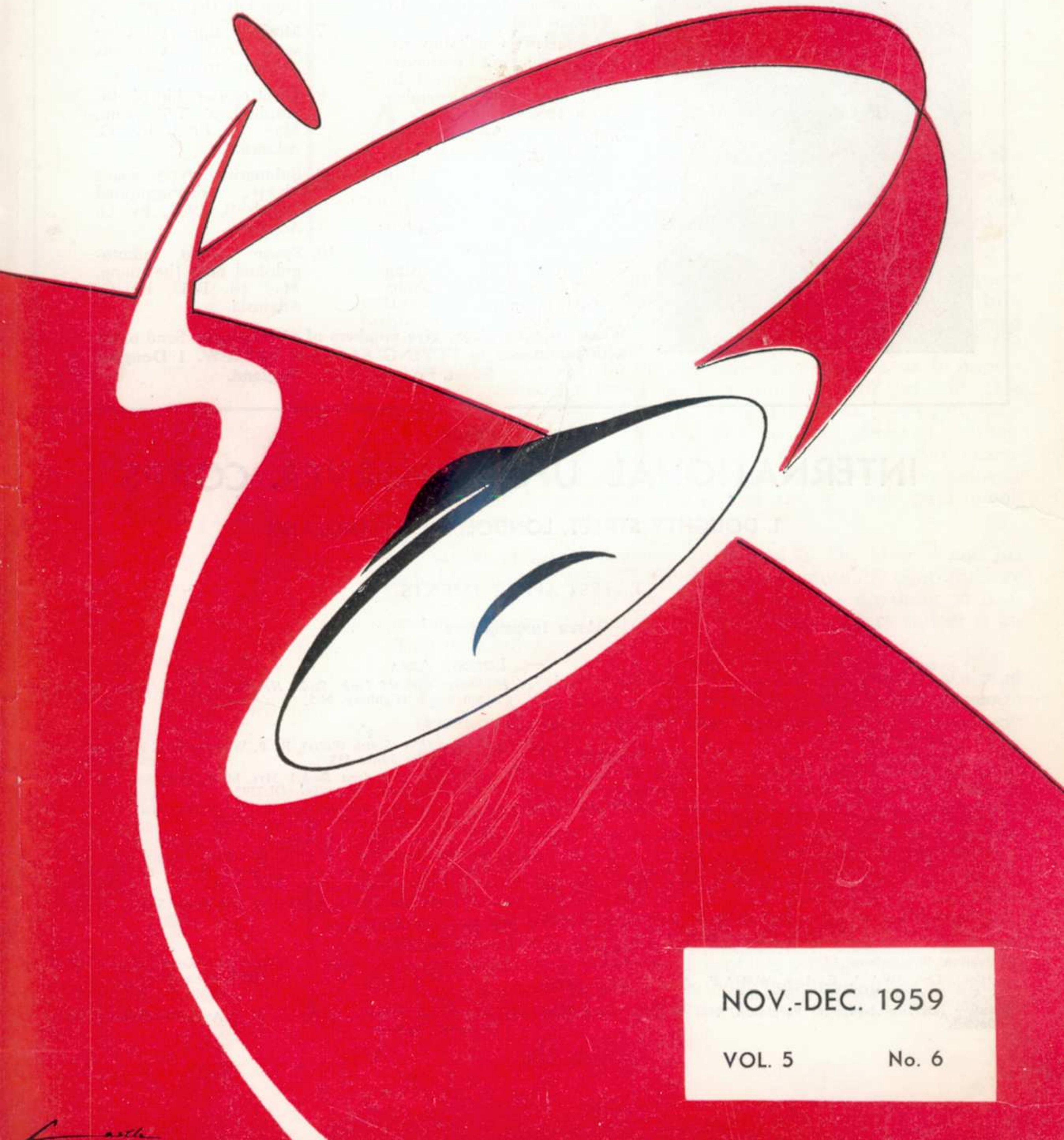
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW



NOV.-DEC. 1959

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FIFTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

This is the first issue under the editorship of WAVENEY GIRVAN.

The bi-monthly Journal of SPACE

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 5 No. 6 **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1959**

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Why not give your friend a subscription to 'Flying Saucer Review' as a Christmas gift?

A Fight to a finish

AS the subject of flying saucers is now twelve years old, it may be an opportune moment to take stock of the situation, with glances both forward and backward. In 1947 as a topic the subject just did not exist—there was no discussion for the very good reason that there was nobody with whom to discuss. Today it is safe to say that the large majority of the public has at least heard of flying saucers.

This is a most encouraging advance in enlightenment, but saucer enthusiasts can take heart from an even more significant fact. In a public opinion poll canvassed not very long ago, it was disclosed that those who were still prepared to deny the existence of the saucers and to dismiss the subject either as a hoax or as an impossibility had shrunk in a few years to a minority of 37 per cent. This does not mean that the majority yet believes, but it does indicate that Dr. Menzel and the "explain it all away" brigade have lost their battle. A few stragglers snipe on: one of these intrepid sharpshooters has just fired off another "explanation" in the shape of cosmic ice, but the shot went wide and nobody has paid much attention to it.

The saucer enthusiast owes a great deal to Dr. Menzel and his defeated company. Their absurd, diverse and mutually contradictory explanations have unwittingly done as much as anything to convince the uncommitted public that the inter-planetary saucer is an exciting possibility.

Before we congratulate ourselves too heartily, a word of warning should be given. The figure of the public opinion poll does not mean that 63 per cent. of the public believes in our subject. It merely means that the majority either believes or has an open mind. The true believers are still in a minority, though their numbers have increased in the last twelve years and are increasing hourly. Also, it must be remembered that believers are by no means united in the nature of their belief. There is the mild believer who admits that the saucers exist and that they must come from other worlds. Beyond that he will not go. Adamski and others are either dismissed or ignored. The many accounts of landings are taken to be either hoaxes or, at the best, claims that lack proof. Among our ranks, also, are those who accept Adamski and the others at their face value and do not question their accounts of contacts with people from other worlds. Then there are those who hold that the saucers are manifestations, in material form, of mysteries far deeper even than the

unknown planets that have for ages puzzled and challenged earth-bound man.

We cannot claim that these groups of people with their varying shades of opinion form a united front, nor can we deny that among our ranks are to be found the crank, at one end of the scale, and the bigot at the other. The purpose of this REVIEW is to provide a platform from which all these points of view can be aired in the conviction that out of free opinions freely expressed the truth will eventually emerge. When we look to the future, however, it will be seen that we have an even more important duty to fulfil.

We think that it is pointless to expect any government to pronounce on the subject of the saucers and to settle the question once and for all. The truth is unlikely to emerge in this way, unless some miracle occurs. We would rather believe in the inevitability of gradualness, and this is why the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW assumes such importance. Our message, it should be remembered, must not be delivered solely to the converted: our purpose must be to persuade as well as to reassure. This imposes a heavy responsibility on the REVIEW. While comment may be free, "facts are chiels that winna ding." We can afford to laugh at Dr. Menzel for trying to escape the facts, but we must not, on our part, either invent or ignore the facts just to suit our case. Nor must we swallow everything we are offered without discrimination.

Time is on our side. The saucers continue to be seen in the skies. Scientists, orthodox and otherwise, are becoming less rigid. The possibility of life on other planets is grudgingly conceded. Professor Firsoff, for instance, has just stated that the atmosphere on Venus at ground level is very similar to our own. During the next twelve years man, Russian, American or both, will land on the Moon and, perhaps, on Venus as well. At each tentative step forward into the unknown he will learn more and more about our neighbours in space. In the meanwhile FLYING SAUCER REVIEW intends to serve as the chief weapon in the war against incredulity. This is one war with a foregone conclusion: it must end in victory.

On another page will be found an example, a classic in its way, of the working of human incredulity. It concerns the advent of heavier-than-air flight and the reluctance to accept a well-attested fact that seemed to affront the firmly-held theories of the day. As we know now, it was the firmly-held theories that had to yield in that particular fight. So it will be with the subject of saucers. We should not underestimate the struggle ahead, however, for those of us who are old enough to have lived through two world wars know full well that it is the lie that is readily believed—and the truth that is well-nigh incredible.

Two important announcements

Editorial

DURING recent months there has been a rapid increase in general interest in the subject of flying saucers. This has led to a rise in the circulation of the REVIEW which, in turn, has brought in more correspondence than it is possible to deal with. Much as the Editor would like to thank his correspondents personally, to do so would be to neglect his other duties. He hopes, therefore, that those who write to him will accept his assurance instead that all letters are most carefully read and as much information as possible is used for publication. Would correspondents also kindly help him by noting the following requests?:

1. Please type all articles on one side only of the paper and use double spacing. Contributions cannot be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

2. Please keep business correspondence separate from communications of a general nature. (e.g. please do not include a note of change of address or a query about a subscription in a letter dealing with details of a sighting.)

Observer Corps

It will probably be necessary to reorganise the Corps in the near future, but a further announcement will be made in our January/February 1960 issue. In the meanwhile, the Corps will continue to function as before.

ANGELS OR MONSTERS?

An unbiased enquiry into the contact reports

by

JULES LEMAITRE

AIMÉ MICHEL'S *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* has already been hailed as perhaps the most important work on the subject yet published. How seriously it will be taken by scientists we have yet to see, and we shall also have to await confirmation that future sightings will conform to the straight line pattern that Michel claims for those in the past. If they do, then the study of saucers will have passed into its second and conclusive stage.

Most reviewers of this book have quite rightly concentrated on its main theme, but some of its other contents are also worth serious study. Unlike so many other books on the subject which attempt a serious and scientific approach, it does not just brush off, or ignore entirely, the contact stories. These must remain a puzzle and a challenge to UFO researchers; they simply cannot be left out of account merely because the author, for some reason or other, dislikes or disbelieves them or because they do not conform with his main theory. Michel cogently remarks that if the reality of the saucers is conceded, then sooner or later one must face the possibility that they have pilots.

The evangelists

It may be an over-simplification, but it is broadly true to say that there have been two sharply defined types of contact stores. Into one category we could place the claims made by such people as Adamski, Fry, Bethurum and the English contactee, Allingham. They would seem to have one thing in common, namely that their visitor from outer space has brought glad tidings and for this reason they can be classified as the Evangelist school. Michel has this to say of Adamski: "So far as Mr. Adamski and his imitators are concerned, what makes their stories so suspicious is not that they claim to have seen saucer pilots; it is that their descriptions of these pilots are far too much like the fulfilment of naïve and ignorant daydreams. But to deny the existence of any saucer occupants because Mr. Adamski's stories are wishful thinking is like becoming an atheist because the Aztecs worshipped a plumed serpent."

The Editors of the American section of this book are even more unkind. In a footnote about the saucer Evangelists, they remark: "Unfortunately, the great majority of these enterprising individuals are still enjoying great success: only a few are in serious legal difficulties. In most countries the well-publicised stories of these professional claimants probably constitute the greatest impediment at this time to recognition by serious people of the realities of the UFO situation."

In passing, I wonder whether this is true. It is much more likely that the sensational claims made by Adamski and others have been the means of bringing the subject to the attention of more people, serious and otherwise, than any other single factor in the whole extraordinary story. If Adamski and others were to be first exposed and then ignored, this is a fact that would remain unaltered. It is extraordinary how prejudice can allow otherwise serious investigators to stand truth on its head. The subject of saucers is greater than twenty Adamskis, honest or fraudulent, but we cannot deny that his two books have brought the subject to millions who had never heard of it before and this, in turn, has evoked the serious study that, up to then, had been denied it.

The horror stories

Let us return to Michel's opinion. He appears to doubt Adamski because his visitors bring tidings of peace. Well, it is a cynical view indeed which declares that all news must be bad, but he may be right. The world, however, seems to have taken the opposite view, and it is the horror stories that have tended to be ignored. M. Michel in his book obviously puts greater credence in

these than he does in the Evangelists of the movement. He says, in effect, the Evangelists are to be ignored while those who would make your flesh creep are to be given a hearing. There is, I must admit, a case to be answered and all who would arrive at truth must walk fearlessly.

M. Michel, as a Frenchman, obviously pays more attention to incidents in his country and his work of investigation has been most valuable. In only one other book on saucers (*Flying Saucers and Commonsense*, by Waveney Girvan) have the French landing stories been related and there they were quoted merely to indicate the reactions they provoked in the British press. The author clearly stated that he kept an open mind and was not citing these cases to prove anything one way or the other. M. Michel, however, has done some investigating on his own.

The Quarouble case need not be quoted in full and it will suffice to say that Marius Dewilde on September 10, 1954, saw two creatures emerge from an unidentified object which had landed on the railway track near his home. He suspected smugglers, but in his own words: "What I saw had nothing to do with smugglers. Two creatures such as I had never seen were walking along one behind the other toward the dark mass that I had noticed on the track. . . . both creatures were dressed in one-piece outfits like the dress that divers wear. They were very short, probably less than three and a half feet tall, but very wide in the shoulders, and the helmets protecting their 'heads' looked enormous. I could see their legs, small in proportion to their height, it seemed to me, but on the other hand I couldn't see any arms. I don't know whether they had any. . . . I was no more than six feet from the two forms when I was blinded by an extremely powerful light, like a magnesium flare. . . . I closed my eyes and tried to yell, but I couldn't, it was just as if I had been paralyzed. I tried to move, but my legs wouldn't obey me."

When the beam of light went out, Marius Dewilde recovered the use of his limbs. The creatures had returned to their machine and had disappeared. When Dewilde told his story to the police he was so agitated with fear that they dismissed him as a lunatic. His fear was so real, however, that investigations were finally set on foot and on the rail track, at exactly the spot described by Dewilde, there were found in five places on three of the wooden ties identical depressions which must have been made by an object weighing at least thirty tons. Nothing more in the saucer world has been heard of M. Dewilde. He has written no books or articles and has ventured on no lectures to an admiring circle of saucerers. His vision of interplanetary pilots could bring no comfort to a suffering world.

A paralyzing ray

Marius Dewilde's story is by no means isolated. On October 3, 1954, the *Sunday Dispatch* (London) reported a number of French incidents involving a paralyzing ray and meetings with oddly-shaped beings similar to those encountered by Dewilde. None of the witnesses spoke of their experiences as being pleasant and none of them has subsequently become prominent in the literary world or the lecture room. Flying saucer researchers who are so fond of accusing governments and others of being in a conspiracy of

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Editor and Publishers of the *Flying Saucer Review* wish their readers all over the world a very Happy Christmas and New Year. They feel certain that 1960 will prove eventful and that every month will bring further confirmation of the great truth that this Review is attempting to proclaim.

silence have kept their mouths very tightly shut about such incidents. They certainly do not appeal to the Evangelist movement.

In the American section of *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery,* two such stories are, among others, related. In both cases the visitors caused alarm and despondency by trying to steal dogs from their owners, hardly an evangelical approach to strangers. It will be noted that the cases I have quoted do not constitute "horror" stories such as the Desverges case in America, but they have this in common that the witnesses have not been overjoyed at the meeting.

What are we to make of all this? There would seem to be two ways of looking at this contact mystery. One is that we are being visited by two sets of people. Those introduced to us by Adamski and others are like angels and the rest are either hostile or just curious and not very anxious to make a good impression. Or we can dismiss Adamski and his friends (as Aimé Michel does) and concentrate upon the weird ones. It must be admitted that the independent evidence is in every case stronger in favour of the less popular visitors, and Michel, as he is entitled to, makes the most of this point. At this stage it is pertinent to comment that those more advanced in applied science are not necessarily superior beings. To argue otherwise would be to claim superiority for the humblest mechanic over Shakespeare and Beethoven neither of whom could repair a motor-mower if they were to return to earth.

It is possible that beings who have mastered space flight may have no morals at all. Alternatively, they may be just curious about life on this earth and be otherwise indifferent to our feelings. They may be so disparate from us that contact between us is impossible. They may be carrying out investigations into our atmospheric conditions and perhaps those dognapping stories may have a significance that has so far been ignored by serious students of the most bewildering of all subjects.

Dogs have always been favourite subjects for investigation and experiment, and we regard it as more expedient that they should be chosen for this purpose in preference to human beings. Not that there have been no reports of abductions of human beings—but that is another story.

EDITOR'S COMMENT . . .

Stories of monsters continue to reach us. They would seem to bear out M. Michel's contention that, on the whole, they are better authenticated than the Evangelist reports. Also, they cannot be attributed to wishful thinking.

One of the most extraordinary stories of them all concerns merchant Hans Gustavsson, 25, and student Stig Rydberg, 30, who live together at the home of the latter's mother at Halsingborg, Sweden. On December 20, 1958, they were returning from a dance when, near Domsten, they saw a saucer. They said that the object's diameter was about 5 metres (about 16 feet), its height about 1 metre (about 3 feet, 3 inches). "It rested on three sort of legs. The craft was self-illuminating, but the glare was neither blinding nor warming. In the centre of the light we thought we could distinguish a darker core." All of a sudden they were attacked by four lead-grey creatures a little over a metre tall (about 4 feet) and about 40 centimetres broad (nearly 14 inches). "They seemed to lack extremities, looking sort of like scones or skittles, but when they attacked us we felt that they had a respectable grasping ability. They clutched firmly on to us and wanted to drag us towards the craft and we had to mobilize every resource to free ourselves. It was difficult to defend oneself, because one got no real hold on the jellylike creatures."

Rydberg said that his right arm sank as far as the elbow deep into one of them, when he tried to box himself loose. Near to, the creatures smelled like "stale marsh."

Gustavsson had four of the creatures clinging to him but he managed to resist their efforts by clinging to a pole. The creatures had decided to concentrate on Gustavsson, so Rydberg managed to escape back to his car. He sounded his horn as an alarm, and at the sound of this the creatures relinquished their hold on his companion and returned to the saucer, which rose from the ground and finally disappeared.

Fearing ridicule, the two Swedes attempted to keep their story to themselves, but finally it leaked out and investigations were set on foot. These have established the sanity of the two men, if little else. The authorities have enlisted the aid of conventionalisations to explain the bizarre incident away but these have had to be dropped.

Another monster story has been reported from Tampa, Florida, where a being at least nine feet tall moved towards a group of fishermen in eight-feet bounds. "The face looked like some sort of bone structure, and it was glowing." The same creature was seen on another occasion, too.

KEYHOE'S EXTRAORDINARY TELEGRAM

An attempt at censorship?

MR. GABRIEL GREEN, organiser of the Amalgamated Flying Saucer Clubs of America Convention at Los Angeles on July 11 and 12, must have been astonished to receive an extraordinary telegram signed by Donald Keyhoe, Director of N.I.C.A.P. It can hardly have made for a pleasant opening. The telegram read:

This to warn you against repeating any claim that the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena is part of your Flying Saucer Club Organisation. N.I.C.A.P. is emphatically opposed to your Los Angeles Program which focuses attention on unproved and often absurd claims of contact with space men. Many of these claims are known to be false. Practically all are regarded with suspicion by the Press and general public. Your carnival approach to the subject of unidentified flying objects is sure to cause public ridicule, offsetting serious work by N.I.C.A.P. and other reputable fact-finding U.F.O. Groups. Any claim or insinuation that N.I.C.A.P. agrees with your views will be publicly denied. The Los Angeles Press and Broadcasters are being informed of this warning.

Major Donald E. Keyhoe, U.S.M.C. (Ret.)
Director of N.I.C.A.P.

We have not yet heard the nature of Mr. Green's reply, but several possible rejoinders spring to mind: none of them would be printable. Major Keyhoe is, of course, entitled to dissociate himself from any group which meets with his disfavour, but this telegram goes much further. It would appear to be a first attempt to establish a form of censorship and comes oddly from a man whose obsession with Silence Groups and other conspirators is well known. Not only does he try to repudiate Mr. Green and his fellow revellers, but he tries to dictate how they should comport themselves at their own Convention to which, presumably, Major Keyhoe is not a generous contributor. Mr. Green may well have reflected that the comic hats and papier mâché noses—if these are, in fact, the concomitants of the "carnival approach"—were being paid for by his friends and not by the grandiloquently-named National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. As an essay in cold arrogance, this telegram would be hard to beat.

Persevering pioneer

The key to this telegram is surely contained in the phrase about public ridicule. It could be a shrewd guess that Major Keyhoe is more concerned about the personal aspect than he is about the subject itself. However, even this is hard to understand, for Major Keyhoe's own books cannot be said to have reflected the scientific approach to their subject. They were deservedly popular and reached a wide public all over the world. To many serious students these works served as their first introduction to flying saucers and we must all be grateful to him as a persevering and courageous pioneer, but his books are not without some of the faults he castigates in Mr. Green.

Major Keyhoe should remember that when he was a pioneer he had to endure ridicule—it is part of the price one has to pay. Now that the subject is moving into the stage of respectability, it can afford the crank and the hoaxer and Major Keyhoe's concern is quite out of date and will only make him look ridiculous if he rushes to the telegraph office at the slightest provocation.

N.I.C.A.P. is on much firmer ground when it devotes its time and money to factual investigations into contact claims which it has reasons to suspect. At the moment, it is investigating one of the many claims made by George Adamski. As the matter is, at this stage, *sub judice*, it would

Saucer men seen in flight: Amazing sighting from Papua

IN our last issue we reported a series of incidents over Papua sent to us by our correspondent the Rev. N. E. G. Crutwell. The incidents continued and seem to indicate a concentration over that area, culminating in a sensational sighting which made the front page of the *Brisbane Sunday Mail* in its issue of August 16. One or two English newspapers carried the story, but in such truncated form that its full significance was missed.

In the report that follows (also supplied by Mr. Crutwell) we have one of those rare accounts of occupants being seen in a saucer in flight and establishing contact by recognition with the witnesses on land. The account, in other words, is half way between a conventional sighting and an actual contact. The data supplied by Mr. Gill to Mr. Crutwell is dated Saturday, June 27, 1959.

Human—no doubt

"Large UFO first sighted at 6 p.m. in apparently same position as last night only seemed a little smaller. . . . I called one of the Mission boys and several others and we stood in the open to watch. Although the sun had set, it was quite light for the following 15 minutes. We watched figures appear on top—four of them—no doubt that they are human. Possibly the same object that I took to be the 'Mother' ship last night. Two smaller UFOs were seen at the same time, stationary. One above the hills, west, another overhead. On the large one, two of the figures seemed to be doing something near the centre of the deck—were occasionally bending over and raising their arms as though adjusting or setting up something (not visible). One figure seemed to be standing, looking down at us (a group of about a dozen). I stretched my arm above my head and waved. To our surprise the figure did the same. One of the Mission boys waved both arms above his head, then the two outside figures did the same. We both began waving our arms and all four now seemed to wave back. There *seemed* to be no doubt that our movements were answered. All Mission boys made audible gasps (of either joy or surprise, perhaps both).

"As dark was beginning to close in, I sent Eric Kodawa for a torch and directed a series of long dashes towards the UFO. After a minute or two of this, the UFO apparently acknowledged by making several wavering motions back and forth. Waving by us was repeated and this was followed by more flashes of the torch, then the UFO began slowly to become bigger, apparently coming in our direction. It ceased after perhaps half a minute and came on no farther. After a further two or three minutes the figures apparently lost interest in us for they disappeared below deck. At 6.25 p.m. two figures re-appeared to carry on with whatever they were doing before the interruption. The blue spotlight came on for a few seconds twice in succession.

The other two UFOs remained stationary and high up—higher than last night (?)—smaller than last night."

Terrific explosion

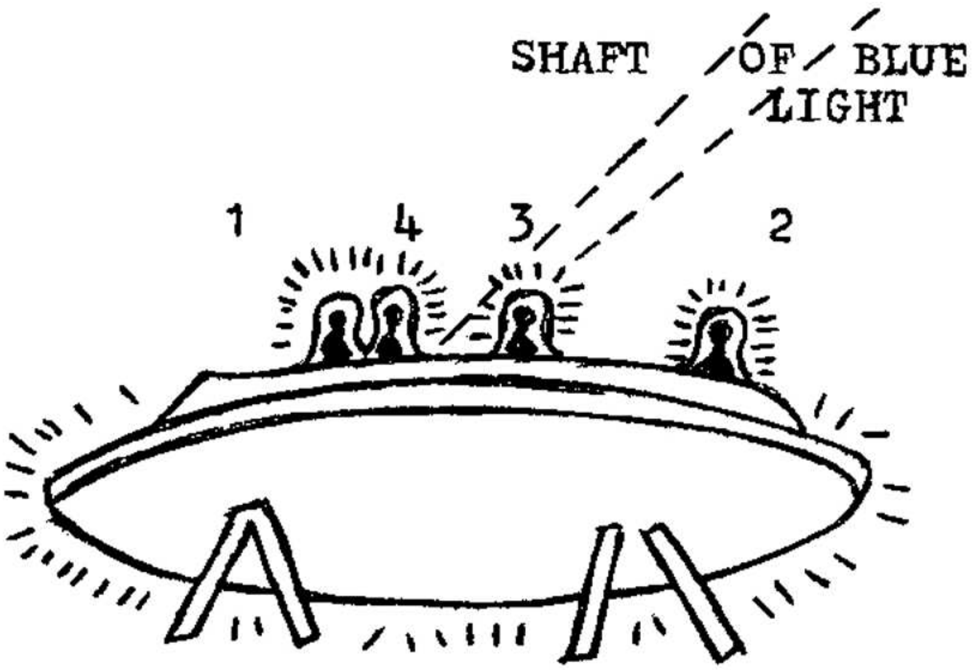
Mr. Gill reports that later that night, at 10.40 p.m., when the sky was overcast, there was a terrific explosion just outside the Mission House. A little later

(Continued on page 8)

KEYHOE'S EXTRAORDINARY TELEGRAM

not be wise to comment too freely, but it can be stated that N.I.C.A.P. claims to have detected Adamski in a fraudulent statement about an alleged flight in a saucer from Kansas City to Davenport in December, 1958. To this charge Adamski has replied. At the moment the dispute seems to be generating more heat than light, but further developments will be reported as they become known.

It cannot be denied that to prove or to refute the Adamski claims would be an achievement of the very greatest importance to the whole movement, but two points should be borne in mind. The first is that the author of the telegram quoted at the beginning of this article would seem to be more suited as an advocate than as a judge. The second is that George Adamski seems to have become case-hardened after a series of "exposures." The investigators have usually come away satisfied that they have proved the fraud, but Mr. Adamski seems to have remained unconvinced.



Traced from the original drawing, this rough sketch shows the UFO as it appeared from the position of observation. One to four "men" clearly seen—appeared in the order shown at 7.10 p.m. (from waist up). They were illuminated.

there were a few drops of rain. Mr. Gill does not claim that there was any connection between the explosion and the earlier sighting. He records, however, that the noise was not that of an ordinary thunderclap, but a penetrating, earsplitting explosion which woke people up on the station. It was so violent that next day he examined the roof for damage but found none.

The *Brisbane Sunday Mail*, in giving a full account of this occurrence, is at some pains to stress the reliability of Father Gill, who graduated from St. Francis Theological College, Milton in 1950. As a footnote to Father Gill's story, the paper records other well-attested incidents:

"On July 14 four prominent Australian business men and doctors reported having seen on July 8 an unidentified flying object in North Queensland's Gulf Country.

"They said they saw a round patch about half the size of a full moon, a mixture of yellow, red and green iridescent light travelling about twice the speed of a Canberra jet bomber.

"The men are: Mr. J. H. Horn, a director of General Motors Holden's, Mr. W. A. Green, managing director of Eagers Holdings Ltd., Dr. Athol Quayle, a Wickham Terrace specialist, Dr. C. A. M. Renou, a Melbourne surgeon.

"Later, railway surveyor Mr. Thomas George Cliff, reported having seen a similar object the same night at a camp 20 miles from Cloncurry.

"He saw the object clearly, he said, but had not reported it because he thought that no one would believe him!"

NEXT ISSUE — a great send-off for 1960 . . .

WHY I BELIEVE ADAMSKI

a long, challenging and highly-controversial article

by Dr Leon Davidson

He witnessed the impossible: they wouldn't believe him

UNTIL the early years of the present century it could be proved beyond question that it was impossible to lift a heavier-than-air machine off the ground for a sufficient period of time to justify the use of the word "flight." Several attempts had been made, but they had all ended in pitiable failure. The trouble was that the power to be applied to the contraption involved a weight that helped to defeat its own object.

The following tribute was paid by Bill Henry, columnist on the *Los Angeles Times,* to fellow journalist Arnold Kruckman, who saw something that, according to the pundits, could never have happened. Those who have seen flying saucers and whose reports have been laughed to scorn will read this account of an historic happening with sympathy and understanding. It should hearten us all, however, to reflect that today's impossibility is very often tomorrow's established fact.

Just fooling around

"Every reporter dreams of the day when he, alone, will be on hand at some epochal event and the story he writes about will be a genuine exclusive, a scoop, and as such will engrave his name forever in the annals of journalistic history. This, of course, doesn't happen very often in real life. If it does it is usually an accident. But a fellow died the other day in Washington who'd had this unusual opportunity. The melancholy fact is that not too many people, even in his own profession, were aware of it. His name was Arnold Kruckman and the story his friends at the National Press Club used to tell said it was his assignment back in 1903 to watch the experimenting of the Brothers Wright who were fooling around with some sort of a home-made contraption on the sand dunes at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

"In those days the people who talked of self-propelled flight were generally classified along with the present-day folk who tell of talking with the little green men from other planets who have landed temporarily on our globe. There were half a dozen reporters at Kitty Hawk keeping an eye on the Wrights, but most of them didn't take the brothers very seriously. Those who did began to lose interest after the interminable postponements, delays and changes of mind. There really wasn't much of any place to stay out there on the sand dunes, anyway, and, on the historic day all but Kruckman were in a nearby village where they could be more comfortable.

"So, as it happened, Kruckman saw the historic event—the jittery preparations as Orville sat on the leading edge of the lower wing while Wilbur wet his finger to feel the breeze. He heard the sneezing of the home-made engine, the rattle of the chain-driven propellers and the shouted signal to drop the counterweight which gave the plane its initial forward motion. He saw Wilbur running alongside as the aircraft slowly moved forward and witnessed the final triumph as the underpowered biplane lifted a few feet from the ground and fluttered uncertainly for a few yards. All these epochal moments in history were observed by young Kruckman, carefully chronicled in a story and telegraphed to his editorial bosses on the *New York World.*

First aviation expert

"Kruckman sat back happily to wait the arrival of the newspaper bearing his scoop. When it arrived his story was nowhere to be found. When he queried to find out what had happened to it his editors informed him that they hadn't published it because 'we didn't believe it.' The Wrights, meantime, had wired the folks back in their home town of Dayton, Ohio, that they had successfully completed man's first flight and would be home by a certain date. The Dayton newspaper published the fact that they were returning home but didn't mention that they had successfully flown under their own power. It was probably the worst-covered big story in modern history.

"Kruckman, although he failed to get his first story in the paper, did become the first aviation expert in American journalistic history. He was named aeronautical editor of the *New York World* by Joseph Pulitzer in 1907. He had a full career in this line, as a war correspondent and in other journalistic fields. But the biggest story he ever wrote wasn't published because his editors just couldn't believe it."

An evaluation of

Aimé Michel's study of the Straight Line Mystery

A public lecture given at Akron, Ohio, U.S.A., on March 14, 1959, sponsored by the Research Committee of Akron.

I HAVE CHOSEN to comment on the recently published work of the French scientist, Aimé Michel, *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery.** Before I enter upon this discussion I want to pay tribute to the non-profit research organisation of New York City responsible for the English translation of this work from the original French, the "Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York." I am proud to be associated with this group as an honorary member and to publicly congratulate the Research Division of this organisation for their significant contribution to the cause of truth in the study of UFOs.

There is much in this book by Aimé Michel that deserves to be studied and analysed with careful reflection from various angles. And I include in this remark also, reference to the "Appendix on the Latest American Sightings" by my esteemed friend and co-investigator, Mr. Alexander D. Mebane, of New York City. I therefore want it understood that my present remarks are more in the nature of a tentative evaluation of the book's content and also to represent but a partial study. The book is outstanding not only for its various analyses, especially of course in the thesis of the straight-line mystery, but it is also an excellent source book of information concerning the sightings in France during the late summer and early fall of 1954.

To Aimé Michel, the historian of the development of UFO science must credit the discovery of orthoteny, a term suggested by the discoverer himself. Michel found that the localities in France from which UFO sightings were observed for a given day, when plotted on a map of France, had a very decided tendency to lie along a straight line. When sightings for a given day were unusually numerous, several such alignments could be discerned. Michel also discovered that these alignments tended to meet at common points of intersection and that extraordinary sightings were associated with those localities where the alignments met.

by Professor Charles A. Maney

Actually, as Michel points out in his book, there were thousands of sightings in France within a period of approximately ten weeks. But for the purposes of his alignment study, precise data as to the date and time of the sightings were needed, as well as reports that bore various evidences of reliability. And so his analysis covers upwards of three hundred selected sightings which are also described as separate incidents in the book. Through the use of maps showing the straight-line character of the observations the author presents an able argument to the effect that the geometrical pattern of the sightings not

* *Flying Saucers and the Straight-line Mystery,* by Aimé Michel, published by Criterion Books, New York, 1958.

only proves the reality of the UFO phenomena, but that it also proves the presence of intelligent design back of these happenings. It would be quite difficult indeed to interpret these sightings in any other way.

Michel's careful analysis of these French sightings is so comprehensive that further effort at extensive analysis serves little useful purpose. But one might be pardoned in making a few additional observations. Taking data from three maps of the book labelled Numbers 4, 5 and 6, covering the week beginning September 23, 1954, and ending September 29, and plotting it in *one consolidated chart* produces a configuration of lines emanating from the vicinity of Rixheim in extreme north-eastern France and fanning out westward over the entire country. As Michel points out, a huge cigar-shaped object accompanied by small satellites was observed at this focal area during the night of September 27-28. In this same connection it might be pointed out that *Mebane's map of American sightings* on November 6, 1957, shows a similar fanning out toward the east from a locality a little south of the southern shore of Lake Michigan. *Michel's map No.* 7, utilising thirty-one sightings for the single date of October 2, 1954, shows a multiplicity of lines, actually nine orthotenic lines intersecting at Poncey, a little north-east of the geographic centre of France. And again, as Michel points out, on the night of October 2 a vast illuminated cigar was observed at the intersection, at Poncey. It would seem to be a plausible interpretation of such unique geometric alignments that a well-organised programme of exploration of features of the area of France were being carried out by some extra-terrestrial intelligences.

Extra-terrestrial probe

Michel points out that "until October 10, almost all the observations fall on straight lines," but that "after that date approximately the number of cases which fail to fit on a line increases every day." This latter tendency could be construed to correspond to the needs of the concluding period of a survey, wherein incomplete data left over from the original systematic mapping programme could be checked upon in a follow-up programme covering miscellaneous details. In short it would appear that these extra-terrestrial scientists or engineers were bent on securing certain types of detailed information pertaining to the geography of France.

Just what type of information was being secured, of course, remains a mystery. That this particular survey appears to have been in the main unconcerned with the inhabitants of France themselves is substantiated by the usually apparent indifference to the French people manifested by the occupants of the UFOs. In some twenty instances persons had seen and in two cases had experienced physical contact with the strange creatures associated with some of the UFOs which had actually landed.

But before discussing the intriguing subject of the contact incidents, two matters having to do with already recognised characteristics of these phenomena might be briefly, though significantly, noted. I refer to two types of phenomena, both of which have been the subjects of studies published in issues of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW of London, England. One* of these studies had to do with the encountering of the so-called angel hair in connection with sightings; the other† summarised certain phenomena referred to as electromagnetic effects associated with the close approach of UFOs.

Angel hair

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW study of angel hair lists seventeen incidents of the appearance of this material. That article covers the period from October 17, 1952, to October 27, 1955, and refers to instances then known to the author, and occurring in various different parts of the world. In fourteen of these listed cases, the angel hair was associated with UFOs. In nine instances the material was described as volatile, usually evaporating with the warmth of the hand. Michel's book adds five more instances of the phenomenon of angel hair, which with the seventeen above mentioned makes a total of twenty-two. It should be noted, however, that since the publication of the original study, many other instances of angel hair phenomena from various parts of the world have been noted in addition to these twenty-two. Thus this unexplained phenomenon of angel hair at times associated with UFO appearances, becomes recognised as a reality, definitely a part of UFO sightings.

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW study of electromagnetic disturbances such as the stopping of

* FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Nov.-Dec., 1956, Vol. 2, No. 6.

† FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, May-June, 1958, Vol. 4, No. 3.

automobile motors and the dimming of headlights associated with the close approach of UFOs notes eighteen instances of this type of occurrence, thirteen of which took place in North America between the dates November 2 and November 14, 1957. Michel's book lists seventeen additional cases, bringing this total to thirty-five instances. Those listed in the book include nine reported by Michel, eight of which were in France in 1954. The other cases were noted by Mebane including additional instances for November, 1957, not mentioned in the original study. This total of thirty-five cases, it should be pointed out, is far from being a complete listing. Thus there is again the establishment of a second phenomenon definitely associated with many appearances of UFOs, namely electromagnetic disturbances of various types.

Among the three hundred sightings described by Michel are twenty accounts, including nineteen in France and one in nearby Germany, in which reference is made to contacts with the occupants of these outer space craft. The contact reports are included within the time interval of thirty-nine days between September 10 and October 18, 1954, and thus average one contact for each two days of that period. By reason of the unusual frequency of this type of sighting and their confinement to a geographic area relatively limited in extent, there is some logical basis for assuming that the phenomena as a group relate to the same mission from outer space. Being a single adventure the group of extra-terrestrial personalities involved in all likelihood belonged to the same race or type and originated from the same extra-terrestrial source. Thus it would seem that an effort to glean from these twenty reports a sort of composite of this extra-terrestrial being would be worth while.

Contact claims

The status of publicised accounts of UFO contacts is certainly the most confused of all UFO problems. It is therefore with some misgivings that the speaker addresses himself to a consideration of this probably most controversial field of one of the most controversial subjects of the day. However, the problem of identification of the very elusive intelligences that navigate these UFOs in their numerous travels throughout terrestrial skies is one that continually haunts the thinking of students in this field. It is difficult to conceive of anyone who has conscientiously spent years in the study of the many well-documented cases available who is not convinced of the objective reality of these phenomena. Such an individual must ever be aware within his consciousness of the question of the identity of the super-scientific minds piloting and directing the marvellous movements of these outer space craft.

No doubt the greatest factor in producing this confusion in the public mind concerning the reliability of contact reports is the large volume of reports by misguided claimants. These claimants publish books, give lectures, appear on television networks, and, because a non-discerning public fails to note the many inconsistencies in their fantastic tales of intellectual contact with outer space personalities, enjoy lucrative profits in capitalising upon their stories. Were the general public a little more informed on principles of elementary physical science there would be much less confusion and those whose claims are actually without valid foundation would have to resort to other less fantastic ways of earning a livelihood. Most of the misguided claimants the author has investigated devote large portions of their testimonies to elaborations of a pseudo-scientific character and in so doing commit themselves to obvious contradictions of well-known facts of astronomy and physics.

Sincere exceptions

A very obvious basis by which a contact claimant could establish the truth of his claims would be the securing of some artifact or gadget from extra-terrestrial sources. Or even the submission of some intellectual plan, a new scientific experiment or a new mathematical formula, in fact anything which by test by competent scholars could be shown to be new to this world,. would serve to validate the claims of a contactee. Up to the present no evidence of this kind has yet been presented to competent terrestrial authority. Thus it is that there are few if any investigators of UFO phenomena of scientific background who recognise the claims of the present-day crop of contact claimant businessmen.

This description of the typical profit-seeking contact claimant does not constitute a sweeping indictment of all persons who believe they have established intellectual contact. No doubt there are many sincere persons who by their experiences, real to them, if not to others, actually do believe that they have had intellectual contact with extra-terrestrials. The difficulty is that such persons seem to have no way of proving the reality of their own experiences to others.

Before commenting in detail upon the descriptions of the extra-terrestrials as revealed through the stories of the French contactees I wish to quote from Michel's book his own summing up of the appearance of these beings. The typical extra-terrestrial is described as follows:

"An apparently living being, about three and a half feet tall, described as dressed in a transparent or translucent 'diving suit'; broad in the body, walking with a swaying, waddling, or jerky gait. Those witnesses claiming to have seen the creature himself through his transparent covering spoke of a broad and low 'head' and of dark complexion. Some witnesses declared that, associated with this being, or with the object (space craft) described above (in the book), or with both together, they saw another being, of human appearance and stature."

It should be borne in mind that it is entirely within the realm of probability that visitors from space could come from different places and be quite unlike in physical appearance. Moreover, visitors from the same locality in space could conceivably also be very different in appearance. Thus the type of person encountered in Michel's book must not be thought of as being the only one existent. The various possible types certainly do not exclude many human-appearing beings like ourselves.

Contacts usually at night

In Michel's book:

(1) The observers of the UFO occupants, or more properly the contactees, comprise all together a variety of persons, ranging in age from young children to adults of all ages. They represent different walks of life, children of pre-school age, youths of various levels in school, men and women travellers, farmers, mechanics, merchants, and professional people. The contact experiences of all of these persons were manifest surprises, as was clearly evidenced from the manner of their reactions to what they encountered.

(2) For the most part the contacts occurred at night in unlighted localities, away from populated areas. In fifteen of the twenty instances the hours were between 6.30 p.m. and 10.45 p.m. There were no cases of contact within four hours before or after midday. Because of darkness the visibility was not good and clear description of the visitors was hardly possible. One could also surmise that the visitors might not have wanted to be seen. If they had tried to make contact one could conjecture that they would have appeared in broad daylight. Moreover, they would also have given evidences of effort to meet human beings. As a matter of fact the incidents gave every sign of being surprises to the UFO visitors themselves.

(3) The mental or emotional reactions of the persons encountered when description was given could be summed up as coming under the category of fear, varying from extremes of terror to stunned amazement. One wonders if these strong emotions of human beings could have been brought out by some subtile attitudes on the part of the visitors which in some strange way conveyed to the contactees that in this out-of-the-world experience they found themselves in the presence of personalities of superhuman potentialities. Interestingly enough the least startled of all were the child contactees. The recorded accounts give no evidence in any case of fear emotions displayed by the visitors.

(4) Although the visitors did not display evidence of fear at the sight of human beings, they did respond at once in protective fashion to any attitude or movement on the part of a contactee that could possibly be interpreted as a threat. In six instances a temporary paralysis was inflicted upon the contactee. In the case of the metal worker who encountered two of the visitors at Quarouble on September 10, when he tried to get hold of one of them he was blinded and paralysed by a light. In the incident occurring on September 27 near Prémanon where four children playing in a farmyard about 8.30 p.m. encountered two creatures, the oldest of the children, a boy of twelve years of age, shot a rubber-tipped arrow at one of them. The arrow seemed to have no effect. But when the lad then went up to touch the visitor, he was "flung to the ground as if by an ice-cold invisible force."

(5) On the matter of estimates of the heights of the visitors there is relatively good agreement in the stories. Five estimates of approximately three feet were given, and three estimates of the order of four feet. The other estimates were non-numerical but the descriptive terms used were "little," "small," or the "height of children." The two exceptions, "average," and "a little below average," probaby referred to a different type of visitor resembling an ordinary human being.

Two types

(6) With respect to body proportions or general physical appearance, two types seem to emerge. The more common type is described in terms that suggest rather marked dissimilarities from the terrestrial human. Such terms as "wide in the

shoulders," "legs small in proportion to height," "larger than human eyes" occur. It should be noted, however, that descriptions of the physical appearance of the visitors were given in only six of the fragmentary accounts. As noted above, in two of the twenty instances the two visitors did not appear different from terrestrial humans.

(7) On the matter of garb or wearing apparel where such is described, the expressions "diver's suit," "dressed like a diver," or similar phraseology, appear in every instance. There are six such references. One could surmise from this consideration that the original home of these visitors is some locality having a different atmosphere from that of the earth. In fact, the probability of some foreign planetary abode being identical in physical environment to the planet earth is relatively small. The presence of divers' suits on these visitors in the Michel accounts is what one would expect to find. The usual publicised contact story does not describe any such garb.

(8) In enumerating features of these contact incidents the description would be incomplete were mention not made of two instances of gestures of friendliness. On September 17 not far from the town of Cénon a cyclist encountered a little creature, much smaller than a man. It was 10.30 and quite dark and this stranger, appearing like a silhouette in the night, came toward the cyclist and touched him on the shoulder. He "uttered a sound" described as "unknown and incomprehensible," then moved toward his space craft and "disappeared."

The other instance occurred on September 10 near the town of Mouriéras in a wild and backward part of France. A farmer was on his way homeward about 8.30 p.m. and suddenly found himself face to face with a peculiarly-dressed person of average height. The stranger approached the farmer making gestures that gave impressions of friendliness. He came forward with one arm above his head, the other arm extended, making low bows and peculiar gestures. He shook the hand of the farmer and pulled him right up to him, drawing his head against his helmet. The stranger made no reply to the farmer's words of "good evening." The stranger then left and the farmer presently saw his craft disappear into the sky.

(9) The lack of any semblance of intellectual contact is apparent in all of the instances related by Michel. This contrasts with the complete ease of communication experienced in the cases of most American contactee claimants. Could not one expect astonishing revelations of information of one kind and another from these representatives of an order of civilisation or life centuries beyond us in advancement in fields of science, arts, and modes of living? When and if the human race ever becomes introduced to such knowledge, one could well judge it as being truly out of this world.

A final word of comment needs to be made with respect to the analysis attempted in the preceding paragraphs. It must be borne in mind that the subject itself is an elusive one. The reality of UFO phenomena is not yet accepted by the majority of the uninformed public. I use the adjective "uninformed" because I feel sure that any intelligent person with an open mind who takes the trouble to thoroughly examine a considerable part of the generally recognised evidence, will be convinced of the reality of the phenomena. Now with the acceptance of the reality of sightings it requires but little additional understanding to realise that back of the many varied gyrations of these space craft there are directing intelligences. It would be strange indeed if among the literally countless numbers of well-reported sightings from every part of the earth there would not be a few instances of glimpses, as it were, of the personalities behind the scenes.

In the above discussion the particular source of information on contact cases is material collected by a French scientist. This material, in the opinion of the author as well as in the expressed judgment of other conservative investigators, is the best available at the present time. It would, of course, be desirable to have data of a more objective character. But since that is not yet possible we simply do as well as we can with what we have at hand. The fact that Professor Aimé Michel was able to use this very same material to discover an important principle, named by him as orthoteny, lends some weight to the reliability of other deductions arising therefrom.

On this very elusive phase of a very elusive subject I have endeavoured to extract some possible conclusions. The value of these might lie in the consideration that with the gathering of more facts of a similar character in the future on waves of sightings yet to reach us we will in time gradually, step by step, learn more about our visitors from outer space.

But—even though there is no basis yet known for such a prediction—it is possible they will make themselves known to us suddenly at some moment of their own choosing!

Is our SUN inhabited?

by W. R. DRAKE

FROM immemorial antiquity the ancient world believed that all the heavenly bodies were inhabited by beings fashioned like man himself in the image of God, and cherished race memories of celestials like Horus, Apollo and Quetzalcoatl descending from the glorious sun to bring enlightenment to earth.

Our distant ancestors worshipped the visible sun as the source of heat and light without which mankind would perish, but it is probable that the esoteric doctrines of the priests venerated the sun as the abode of immortals, rulers of the solar family, who imparted their wisdom to the initiated in visions or telepathy. Many early Christians regarded the man, Jesus, as being overshadowed by Christ, a great soul from the sun, incarnated to reveal the cosmic mystery, and they incorporated into Church ritual many of the symbols of sun worship.

Variety of truths

When growing materialism blinded men's souls to the secret wisdom, men arrogated to themselves the monstrous conceit that earthlings were nature's noblest work; the godless, star-clad universe was merely a sterile waste, and the great sun a giant ball of fire which had conveniently sprung into existence to shine on the follies of men on earth.

Modern astronomers who peer at the sun through a lens of atmosphere hundreds of miles thick, ridicule the credulity of the ancients and, interpreting the tracings on their photographs, spectroscopes, thermocouples and radarscopes find what first they were looking for, now give their marvelling audience the last words of unalterable, definite truth. Some of their ungrateful listeners may grumble perversely at the variety of truths, and wonder why some astronomers declare the sun is getting colder while others vow it is getting hotter, why Einstein based his questionable theory of relativity on the velocity of light and the displacement of the spectral lines, when some physicists (bewailing the dual undulatory-corpuscular appearance of light) are inclined to the ancient belief that light has no velocity, that light is. And no less an authority than Sir James Jeans flatly ridiculed the so-called Döppler shift in the spectrum, the fundamental basis for the alleged receding galaxies, saying that no one honestly knew whether the galaxies were coming or going.

Goethe, who divined much of the wisdom of the ancients, based his theory of colour on vortices of opposite forces of gravity and levity apprehended by the soul through man's physical eyes. He claimed to be supported by Plato, Leonardo da Vinci and many other excellent men. The great German philosopher believed the ancient doctrine of the living inhabited universe; like the inimitable Charles Fort, he scorned Roemer's alleged proof of the velocity of light from the moons of Jupiter, based on the new mechanical principles of Newton, and soundly dismissed the materialist astronomers saying to his biographer, Eckermann, "Experiments do not prove the truth, nor is it their intention. The only point professors prove is their own opinion. They conceal all experiments that would reveal the truth and show their doctrines untenable."

He waged a life-long campaign against the Newtonians and said "Their explanation is too stupid and a good headpiece is incredibly damaged when it meddles with stupidities." Those of us who muddle over the present conflicts of astronomy, contrasting the revelation of the Russian lunik that is said to have measured the temperature of space as 32C. with the solemn assurance of our astronomers who proved from their armchairs that the temperature of space must be the unimaginable –273C., find ourselves echoing Goethe's sentiments.

Herschel's discovery

While Goethe was fulminating against the Newtonians his fellow-countryman, William Herschel, had moved to England, and as organist in the lovely city of Bath, wrote anthems, chants and psalm-tunes for the excellent cathedral choir of the Octagon Chapel. Like many devout men of old, religious awe and humility turned

Herschel's eyes aloft to God's glorious heavens, and on Tuesday, March 13, 1781, while examining the neighbourhood of H Geminorum he discovered a shining major planet, which he patriotically named Georgium Sidus, soon changed to the more classical Uranus.

In the introduction to his paper on "The Nature and Construction of the Sun and Fixed Stars" (1795) Herschel recounts the discoveries of Newton and Galileo and says "I should not wonder if, considering this, we were induced to think that nothing remained to be added, and yet we are still very ignorant in regard to the internal construction of the sun. The spots have been supposed to be solid bodies, the smoke of volcanoes, the scum floating on an ocean of fluid matter, clouds of opaque masses, and to be many other things. The sun has been called a globe of fire, though perhaps metaphorically."

The sun's three parts

Herschel then advanced the theories of his friend, Professor Wilson of Glasgow, who in 1774 explained that sun-spots were vast hollows in the sun's atmosphere at the bottom of which the actual surface of the sun might be seen. Herschel modified this theory with numerous observations and decided that the sun consisted of three parts. First there was a solid nucleus, non-luminous, cool, and even capable of being inhabited, second above this was an atmosphere proper, and lastly outside this was a layer which gave to the solar surface its intense brilliance. He said a dark spot in the sun is a place in the atmosphere which happens to be free from luminous decompositions above it. The two atmospheric layers of varying thicknesses about a spot will account for all the shades of darkness seen in the penumbra. Ascending currents from the solar surface will elevate certain regions and increase solar activity and this gives rise to bright streaks, faculæ, elevated above the general surface.

He argued in favour of the habitability of both moon and sun, peopling the latter with happy, god-like men living a golden age in eternal spring. Herschel noticed the eleven-year periodicity of sun-spots and met unmerited ridicule by publishing a paper showing how the price of wheat varied according to sun-spots, an observation with a surprisingly modern topicality.

Herschel communicated to the Bath Philosophical Society certain mathematical papers relating to central forces other than the force of gravity but these were lost; it is interesting to speculate whether these divined the at-present undiscovered resonating electro-magnetic force, or Goethe's force of levity which oddly enough is now being considered as a force of repulsion repelling the distant galaxies. As a matter of historical interest it is said that the quest for this force of anti-gravity or levity occasioned so much mirth that the word levity lost its precise significance and came to be associated with humour. Modern astronomers justly extol Herschel's brilliant fundamental stellar researches yet by that notorious lacuna in the modern materialist mind dismiss his solar theories as nonsense. Such behaviour accords with the well-known practice that if a man agrees with a recognised authority he is a fine fellow, should he venture to disagree he must obviously be a fool.

Modern materialist science, which has banished God from the universe, makes the arrogant and wholly unproven assumption that since terrestrial instruments obscured by thick atmosphere cannot discover life on other planets in all the one thousand million galaxies, each glittering with a billion stars, human beings are confined solely to our tiny earth, therefore life on the sun cannot be considered. A more obvious reason is that life on the sun is laughingly impossible. Since everyone knows that light and heat emanate somehow from the sun, physicists are obliged to envisage the sun as a giant luminous sphere with an alleged mass of 2,000 million, million, million, million tons where nuclear explosions every second fuse 564 million tons of hydrogen into 560 million tons of helium radiating 4 million tons as light, heat and other energy. We are asked to believe that in its 5,000 million year history the sun has, therefore, radiated the equivalent of one hundred earths already; the surface temperature is alleged by some to be 6,000 C., by others to be 11,000 C. soaring at the centre to the utterly meaningless 20 million degrees, although others deprecate such inexactness and swear to the phantasy of 40 million degrees. At present human imagination has not felt able to surpass this estimate, but no doubt some astro-physicist will feel patriotically obliged to proffer a more flamboyant guess.

A scientific leg-pull?

Lost as we are in wonder, love and praise of the master-minds who can truthfully analyse a heavenly body said to be 93 million miles away, we must agree that if this singularly diverting information is really truth at long last, life on that celestial bonfire is rather unlikely. Yet some of us feel like the little boy in Hans Andersen's

salutary tale of "The Emperor's New Clothes," who, while his dutiful elders admired the suit of gold, tried to protest that the monarch was ambling around in the nude. We are nagged by the suspicion of a scientific leg-pull; in this wonderful universe all things are possible. Were all the ancient savants fools, might not their intuition, not mesmerised by our ultra-modern instruments, be somehow nearer reality?

We remember that all our astronomers once swore that the moon was an utterly dead, icy planet. Last November, however, a Russian perversely photographed an active volcano. If many of us associate volcanoes with heat, burning with oxygen, volcanic ash with fruitful soil, soil with people, people with civilisation, then we are soundly condemned for wild romanticism by the astronomers who grumble that it is just like the Russians to try to force them to revolutionise their preconceived conceptions. If the same astronomers sat on a lunar crater and peered at the earth with the same instruments they would declare that all the earth's atmosphere was unbreathable hydrogen, that the earth had no heat of its own. They would report that telescopes showed not the slightest sign of human life.

Astronomer's claim

It is a source of constant wonder that while our geologists admit their ignorance of the constitution of our own earth, the astronomers claim direct unimpeachable knowledge of the centre of the far distant sun.

If the sun really is a tremendous furnace it is difficult to understand why comets are not incandesced by it instead of returning in orbit, why the temperature does not become higher instead of lower as we ascend nearer to the sun and why it is not lighter but darker in the upper atmosphere; equally cogent arguments can be advanced against the alleged velocity of light. When the inhabitants of Mars see patches of our earth through the clouds no doubt they refer to them as "earth-spots."

We are led to wonder if the heat and light reaching us via the sun are not provided by methods other than nuclear explosion on the sun itself. Initiates of Lemuria and Atlantis believed that our sun was controlled by the primary force of its superior sun in the constellation of Sagittarius around which it revolves; our own sun being negative to this force of the controlling sun reflects it as positive to the negative inferior planets, which in turn reflect it as positive to the, to them, negative and inferior satellites. Our earth was said to generate a centrifugal force, a gyroscopical force and a great electro-magnetic force. The universe was thus motivated by four great forces symbolised by the swastika. The ancients believed that light and heat did not travel from the sun; the phenomena of light is caused by the interaction of the sun's affinitive force meeting the earth's electro-magnetic force; heat is said to be a subdivision of the electro-magnetic force stored in the earth's surface; when this force meets the sun's force heat manifests as waves in the atmosphere.

Tempting conclusion

A similar explanation is advanced by space intelligences who tell of a resonating electro-magnetic field. Some modern intuitives appear to agree with the ancients and with Goethe that the radiations of the sun manifest light and heat only when they impinge on the negative radiations of earth; the ancient doctrine of vortices is represented in a modern form to agree the various phenomena of radiation.

To those of us who lack imagination this explanation seems much more plausible than the astronomers' dictum of the sun as a whirling ball of flames, racked with nuclear explosions, with temperatures of scores of millions of degrees miraculously discharging light and heat across millions of miles of a space which is claimed to be fantastically cold.

With Goethe and Charles Fort we are tempted to conclude that even in this enlightened age astronomers believe what they want to believe.

A new Apollo?

But so do we! It is not suggested that flying saucers come from the sun; no doubt the Celestials will leave it to the beings on other planets to rehabilitate men of earth until we can mingle with our brethren in the solar family. Yet the possibility exists that one day a new Apollo may descend to earth to redeem mankind again.

Is the sun inhabited? Who knows? Should we not be really scientific and suspend judgment until man gets there?

● **This is the first of a series of articles on the fascinating subject of the possibilities of life on other planets.**

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

HOW CONFUSION IS SPREAD

It is small wonder if the public becomes bewildered by the subject of flying saucers. Two recent bedevilments have occurred revealing not only an ignorance of the subject but also of the mother tongue.

A Queen's Counsel should, at least, know the language in which he is practising, but Mr. Christopher Shawcross, Q.C., Recorder of Nottingham, Chairman of the Provisional Institute of Space Law, landed himself into a semantic absurdity in a letter he wrote to Academician Sedov, President of the International Astronautical Federation on Space Travel. He referred to the possibility of Earth being placed in jeopardy by the exploration, "if not invasion," of beings from outer space. He added: "Flying saucers may be all a myth, but there may be a lot of truth in mythology." The Oxford English Dictionary defines "myth" as follows: "A purely fictitious narrative usually involving supernatural persons, actions, or events, and embodying some popular idea concerning natural or historical phenomena."

When Mr. Shawcross has had time to reflect he will see that if the saucers are a myth, then we are in no danger whatsoever from an invasion. If the saucers, however, are a fact, then they cannot be a myth. One day he will have to make his mind up.

From Queen's Counsel to Oat Crunchies. The copy-writers for cereal packets whose effusions brighten our breakfasts are, we imagine, not quite so well-educated as barristers are supposed to be. They deal in the printed word, just the same, and should be careful not to mislead. The Quaker Oats Company has issued an Oats Crunchies packet which gives away with the cereal a toy "flying saucer." On the back of the packet is what purports to be a history of the flying saucer. The four small illustrations depict a helicopter, the "flying platform" developed by the U.S. Army in 1957, a jet-propelled "saucer" designed by a Frenchman, and the recent English invention, the S.R.N.1 Hovercraft. All these craft are terrestrial and have very little in common except that they are circular, or vaguely circular, and airborne. One or two of them may have been referred to in the popular press as "saucers," but only because in shape they resembled the inter-planetary craft of that name. The real story of the flying saucer is nowhere referred to on the cereal packet and the intention to mislead was either deliberate or, again, the result of ignorance. It would not be surprising to learn that a large number of youngsters has written to the Quaker Oats Company in protest at the ignorance of its elders. Incidentally, it is no defence for the copy-writer to plead that he does not believe in flying saucers in the inter-planetary sense, for that is the original sense of the phrase. If he doubts this he, too, should refer to the Oxford English Dictionary: flying saucers make their first appearance in the supplement to the latest edition.

What is the real explanation of these two mistakes? Fear of public ridicule has caused two very different people to write nonsense. Both writers are, as it happens, quite out of touch with the public mood: the era of incredulity has passed and the majority is eager for news and instruction.

ENGLAND:

Cigar-shaped objects over Wokingham

On July 1, 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, who live near Wokingham, about six miles south-east of Reading, Berkshire, were attracted by a bright flash in the sky. Their first assumption was that it was sheet lightning. On looking more carefully, however, they observed that the flashes were of a greenish-blue nature and were emanating from each of four cigar-shaped objects at the tail. Each object carried a very bright light at its nose end. The spectacle lasted for a whole hour. Mrs. Grant's mother also watched the mysterious objects until they disappeared.

(*From our Area Investigator, G. E. Newey.*)

METEORITES?

"Things" in the sky seem ot have been particularly active just lately, particularly over the British Isles. The Dublin *Evening Herald*, for instance, admitted that the emphatic reports of unusual objects had been pouring into its office. The Dunsink Observatory had also admitted that it was unusual to see fireballs or meteors on two successive nights. Witnesses all seemed to agree that what was seen—on several occasions—was more like a flare than a natural phenomenon.

The Edinburgh *Evening Dispatch*, July 23, had also reported similar sightings. It quotes Larry Knowles (26) as saying: "A

round red object, all aglow, came in from the East Coast, and then shot off in that direction again." The Meteorological Office at Turnhouse Airport said that nothing was seen by their observers.

The Cardiff *Western Mail*, August 18, carries a similar report. The "Thing" was seen shooting across the night sky over the Bristol Channel by several Cardiff residents. Mr. Joseph Walsh, 32, and his brother-in-law, Trevor Godolphin, 21, described the object. "It went from east to west and passed under the moon. It had gone over the horizon by the time we could get our binoculars."

The "Thing" turned up in Essex and won for itself the distinction of being referred to at length in *The Times*. It also fluttered the Essex County Constabulary for they had been searching the area of Bowers Gifford for particles of whatever it was they were looking for. *The Times*, September 7, 1959, said that Mr. D. Thomason, of Bowers Hall Farm, had reported that he and his wife had seen some rocket-like object disintegrate. The inevitable spokesman for the Meteorological Office said that what Mr. Thomason and many other people in the south-eastern parts of the country had seen was in all probability "a rather large meteorite." He revealed that at 8.26 p.m. on Saturday (September 5) the Jersey Air Traffic control authorities had reported a fiery object to the north-east that was splitting into three. Other reports were received from Guildford, Romford, Newport Pagnell, Mayfair and various London suburbs. The descriptions referred to a "fiery cone with pink and green sparks" travelling north. Earlier, coastguards at Deal and Dungeness said that the object had split into three pieces. The Walmer and Hastings lifeboats, lacking the good advice of the spokesman of the Meteorological Office, were launched in the belief that the lights were distress flares. Mr. Thomason, referred to above, who also cannot have heard of our old friend the spokesman of the Meteorological Office, said that his attention was first directed to the object by a constant humming noise. At that time, he said, it was travelling very slowly at an altitude of 300 ft. to 400 ft., but was losing height rapidly. "It was a fiery blue in colour, and when I saw it I thought it was a small rocket —something like a miniature V bomb." As he watched, the object disintegrated and part of the lighted tail fell to earth.

The London *News Chronicle*, September 7, adds more fun to the mystery for it calls in the Royal Observatory at Herstmonceux in Sussex. Very wisely officials there said nothing at all.

Has the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW anything to add? Merely that you can prove anything you want to if you ignore those witnesses whose evidence contradicts your theory. Mr. Thomason's evidence alone discounts the meteorite explanation.

SCOTLAND:

Aboyne folk see saucer

Three women—G. E. Williams, Huntly Cottages, Mrs. G. Buchan, Post Office House and Mrs. A. Lovie, Huntly Cottages — were walking across the Aboyne golf course just after 8.45 p.m. on August 14 when they saw a mysterious object in the sky. Mrs. Williams told the Aberdeen *Evening Express*: "The object was travelling at a leisurely speed in an east-west direction. It was of a rounded shape with a kind of fin or tail on the front. There was a dull sort of light emanating from it, unlike that usually seen from an aeroplane." Mr. A. Gordon, Golf Road, Aboyne, later became a witness of the object, which finally disappeared westward.

Sighted by hundreds

The *Glasgow Daily Record*, July 30, reports: "Scotland's latest flying saucer—without the scare—was seen yesterday. Hundreds of people in Forehill housing scheme, Ayr, paused to watch a strange object in the sky, briefly discussed what it might be, then carried on home for lunch. And nobody was in the least afraid.

The phenomenon, a white or silvery object, high in the sky to the west, appeared to be just under the crescent moon. Mrs. Anna Robertson, of Clarendon Place, said: "It was like a white round ball, tiny in comparison with the moon, but clearly visible in a patch of clear blue sky."

But William McClymont, 38-year-old stamp worker, of the Caledonia Road, had an altogether different view.

"It was a bright, silvery object. I stood more than half an hour watching, and saw it start to circle the moon."

Mr. Dante Filipi, of Mount Oliphant Crescent, Ayr, who previously considered reports about flying saucers as "a lot of nonsense," said: "This was real, yet I've no idea what it was."

The air movements authorities at Prestwick Airport could offer no explanation and the Meteorological Office said it was too early in the day for it to have been a meteorological balloon.

This report suggests that on a previous occasion there had been a scare, but the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has been unable to find any record of such a commotion in Scotland.

PRETORIA HAS VISITOR:

Housewife amazed

An unnamed housewife, according to the South African *Pretoria News* of June 22, is reported as having said: "I was amazed to see a saucer-shaped object as big as a house stationary about 15 ft. above the ground only a hundred yards away from me." The time was 8 o'clock on the evening of June 21; the place was the farm she and her family are building at The Willows. She added the following details: "The whole object was bathed in an orange glow which appeared to come from inside. It was not the glow of a normal electric light, but similar to the glow of a dying fire. There was a green light coming from one side but from what I cannot say." The huge object hung suspended for

a few seconds and then slid off at great speed still only about 15 ft. above the ground. "I thought that if the object was an aircraft or some other secret craft it must surely crash into the nearby hill, but keeping only 15 ft. above the ground it flashed away over the hill and disappeared."

The housewife wished to remain anonymous because she had herself scoffed at other people who had made similar claims and did not want to suffer the same indignity: which goes to prove that you can see the objects even when you don't want to.

CANADA:

Ridicule fear holds back landing report

The Vancouver Sun has released the news that on April 29, at 10.30 p.m. Alex Gillis and Jerry Monkman were driving to the latter's home at Grassy Plains, 360 miles north of Vancouver when, in Monkman's own words: "We just topped a rise and there it was in the road right in front of us. It was about 14 feet across, egg-shaped and there appeared to be a light shining through the top." Both men agreed in their account that the slate-grey object was plainly visible in the centre of the road. It was a clear moonlit night. After a few moments, it disappeared without a sound. They said it must have risen straight up at a terrific speed. This account was not reported for a whole month. Both the witnesses kept the matter a secret for fear of ridicule. Finally, they were persuaded to report the landing to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

NEW ZEALAND:

More men in a saucer

The Nelson *Evening Mail*, July 22, reported that Mrs. Frederick Moreland, of Old Renwick Road, Blenheim, went to milk the cows on July 13 at 5.30 a.m. when she noticed a greenish glow in the clouds. Then she saw, in her own words: "A saucer-shaped glow with two indented green lights in the bottom, descended. The air became very warm. Two rows of jets around the middle shot out orange-coloured flames. They appeared to revolve in opposite directions. The thing was about 20 to 30 feet in diameter. It hovered at about roof-top height.

"The jets stopped and a light was switched on in what appeared to be a glass dome or roof, which glowed. The bottom appeared to be of a greyish metal colour. There was a faint hum in the air, as it hovered.

"There were two men in it, dressed in fairly close-fitting suits of shiny material. The only thing I can think of to describe it is aluminium foil. Opaque helmets rose from their shoulders. I could not see their faces. One of the men stood up and put two hands in front of him as if leaning over to look downwards. He then sat down and, after a minute or two, the jets started off again, and, tilting slightly at first, the thing shot up vertically at great speed and disappeared into the clouds. When it did this it made a soft but high-pitched sound."

Mrs. Morland later told the police and an Air Force representative of her experience, but did not meet with the incredulity she had feared.

The "jets" which Mrs. Moreland mentions cannot have been those of any conventional craft, for she describes the noise as that of a humming, soft though high-pitched. It is interesting to compare this account with the incident over Papua reported on page 7 of this issue.

URUGUAY:

New investigation centre formed

An advice from Montevideo reports that there has recently been formed an investigative body, C.I.M.A.N.I. (Centro de Investigacion de Maquinas Aereas No Identificadas), which will work closely with the Uruguayan Air Force. The institution will cover the whole of the country with a radio network, and collaborating members will send detailed reports to the headquarters in Montevideo. C.I.M.A.N.I. is directed by Mr. Pedro Saenz Narbondo and Mr. Tomas Cantore Garcia. Not only will sighting reports be investigated and evaluated, but the institution plans also to disseminate general news of the subject on one of the leading broadcasting stations in the country.

RICKENBACKER PROPHESIES

Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker has a solid reputation for being proved right with his prophecies. Twenty-four years ago he foresaw: "luxury aeroplanes hurtling at 200 miles an hour across the ocean from England to New York." He visited London recently and chanced his arm once again: "Space ships may become commonplace for inter-planetary travel. With luxurious accommodation for 1,500 to 2,000 passengers, they will use atomic power and will have practically unlimited range. They will be semi-self-sustaining planets in themselves."

This looks like a sound prophecy at first sight. But Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker may have been reading Adamski's *Inside the Space Ships*.

RUSSIAN SPACE?

When the recent and successful Lunik was launched, the Russians announced that they had taken special measures to immunise the rocket from terrestrial micro-organisms. They had taken this step, they added, in the interests of future space travellers as life in some form or other might exist on other planets.

At the moment the Soviet rocket hit the moon, Russian astronomers at Kharkov saw "some kind of light effect" in the area of the Seas of Tranquillity, Serenity and Vapours.

The Tass Agency also reports that Russia already has a huge cosmic rocket capable of reaching Mars and Venus and soaring even farther into outer space. Only one thing is holding up the launching. There is no radio

(Continued at foot of next page)

Marvels of Jodrell Bank

by ROBERT CHAPMAN

Science Correspondent of the London Evening News

ALTHOUGH you may have a good idea of its shape from drawings and photographs, the radio-telescope at Jodrell Bank can still astonish you if you come across it unexpectedly.

You may be motoring in the flat Cheshire countryside when suddenly there it is, towering above you like a gigantic electric bowl fire of latticed steel, dwarfing even the tallest trees. It is hard to suppress a gasp of amazement as you slow up for a better view.

Imagine the upturned dome of St. Paul's slung between the tops of twin towers as high as Nelson's Column and you will have some idea of the immensity of the telescope.

Imagine the whole structure, weighing 2,000 tons, turning smoothly on a circular railway which would just about fit into Trafalgar Square and you will have some idea of the engineering skill involved in keeping this remarkable instrument in operation.

£1,000,000 instrument

It is not surprising, therefore, that some 30,000 requests to visit Jodrell Bank are received every year from organisations as diverse as scientific societies and women's institutes. Regretfully most have to be turned down. Otherwise the work of the radio-telescope, which cost £1,000,000 to build, would be constantly interrupted.

For the past two years Jodrell Bank alone has kept Britain from being completely eclipsed in the space race. Both Russia and America are obliged to turn to Britain for information about their sputniks and space rockets once they have been launched. Indeed, it was solely the radio-telescope which enabled Soviet scientists to confirm their bull's-eye shot at the moon in September.

But although Professor Bernard Lovell, director of Jodrell Bank, and his colleagues are ever ready to assist in tracking space vehicles, this is not the purpose for which their eyeless telescope was designed. It was designed for the even more fantastic task of exploring the universe

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powerful enough to keep in touch with the rocket during its journey of two years or more. Once this problem has been solved, Professor Vladimir Dobronravou states that fact-finding rockets will be sent to Mercury and Jupiter. Professor N. P. Barabashov, Chairman of the Inter-Planetary Committee of the Academy of Science said today that it was time to start planning an observatory on the moon. This would enable scientists to probe farther into space.

There is not the slightest doubt that most of these prophecies will be fulfilled in the not-too-distant future. From the terrestrial point of view, it would seem that Russia has established such a comfortable lead in the race that she could not be overtaken in the next ten years. Indeed, as far as one can see at the moment, her lead may considerably increase and her rate of progress accelerate. If this is so, then Russia has won the cold war, for the military advantages gained by being the first in space are quite conclusive in this age of unconventional weapons.

At first sight this is a pessimistic and even alarming view. However, if intelligent life teems on other planets—and there is plenty of evidence that it does—then we obtain a new and better perspective. It is surprising, therefore, that no government or newspaper, even, is apparently willing to consider the possibility that the Earth is not alone in supporting intelligent, and perhaps human, life. The subject is taboo, it would seem. When Bertrand Russell, for instance, was asked to prophesy what the future held in store, his prognosis was limited to conventional guesses such as any schoolboy might risk. He made no mention of space travel, and he never envisaged the possibility, even, of the recent Lunik.

Intellectuals shun the subject, as a rule, and lowbrows ridicule it. At least, that is so in the Western world. It may be that the first public confirmation of the reality of flying saucers will come from the Soviet, though it should be remembered that if the Russians regard space travel as having primarily a military objective, then they may clamp down on such a discovery for as long as possible. Expenditure of such a vast amount of time, money and materials would seem to argue a military incentive. Individual explorers may be impelled by curiosity alone: governments usually have sterner aims.

by listening-in to strange, jumbled radio "noises" from outer space.

Birth of the universe

Already some remarkable results have been obtained and Professor Lovell, in a series of broadcast lectures, has said it may not be long before radio-astronomers can decide whether the universe began with the explosion of an enormous primeval atom or has no apparent beginning at all.

But one cannot consider the work of Jodrell Bank without first tracing its history, a comparatively short history back to 1932 when an American radio engineer, Karl Jansky, demonstrated that radio noise was reaching the earth from among the stars. It was an exciting discovery but little progress was made in following it up at the time owing to lack of skill and equipment.

Then came the war and the development of radar techniques, and afterwards there were scientists in several parts of the world with sufficient knowledge and experience to turn their attention to the new science of radio-astronomy.

Britain with her overcast skies had gone as far as possible in *seeing* stars. We could never hope to rival the Americans peering into space through their 200-inch optical telescope on the top of Mount Palomar. But in radio-astronomy visibility was not important. With a sufficiently powerful instrument we could go on probing summer and winter, day and night—and reach out even further than the Palomar astronomers.

Instead of a powerful eye it was a powerful ear that was needed—to catch and classify the faint electro-magnetic waves coming to earth from remote corners of the universe, from dark stars which could not be seen in the ordinary way even with the most powerful optical telescope.

Britain the leader

Britain could lead the world in this sphere of space research. It was this notion which spurred Professor Lovell on to overcome formidable opposition to his plan for a giant steerable radio-telescope which could focus on a pin-point in space and remain focussed while the spinning earth sought to distract its attention.

Nobody dreamed in those days that the radio-telescope would become such an immediate and resounding success, nor that Jodrell Bank, renowned for little more than a few scattered farms and cow pastures, would become world-famous not only as earth's No. 1 listening post but also as its most powerful radar transmitter.

The sources of radio emission from outer space are a constant puzzle. Some are thought to have resulted from a collision of galaxies which occurred long before our world started on its first journey round the sun. Others seem to indicate the existence of " burnt-out " stars which apparently populate the heavens in a kind of carbon copy of the visible universe.

Interpreting cosmic waves

The feeble electro-magnetic waves, surviving journeys of many thousands of light-years, tell (to those who can interpret them) of cosmic events of incredible antiquity. As they strike the steel-plated bowl of the radio-telescope they are focussed on a single point and transmitted to a control room situated on the ground apart from the telescope. There the radio astronomers record them by tape and automatic stylus ready for the difficult task of analysis. In this way they are virtually remapping the heavens, plotting the positions of radio stars among the visible ones—work which is indispensible to the proper understanding of the universe.

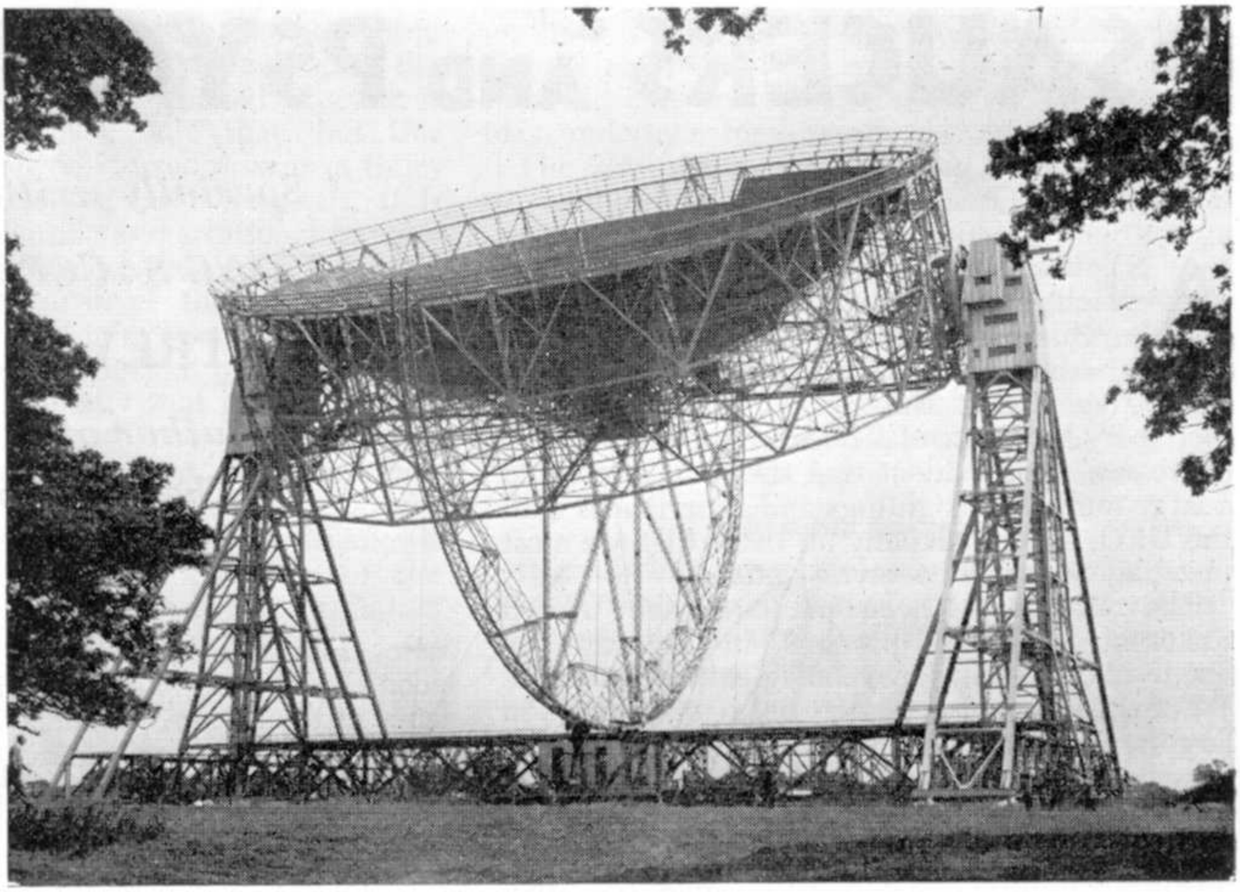
Only when there is a request for assistance in tracking a new satellite or a lunar probe is this work interrupted and the staff at Jodrell Bank become involved in the world-wide excitement of the space race. To watch the great metal bowl, tipped with its ruby warning light for aircraft, moving silently in the chilly dawn is an unforgettable experience, as also the sound of the rocket's radio transmitter receding from the earth at thousands of miles an hour.

Contact with Venus?

It is usually as a receiver that the radio-telescope plays its part in these experiments but it has also been called upon to act as transmitter as well. Sputniks I, II and III were all located at some time or other by the telescope's radar beam.

As a transmitter it has also been used to send messages to a United States Air Force research centre in Massachusetts, 3,000 miles away, by bouncing them off the moon, nearly 240,000 miles away! And it is hoped soon to make contact with Venus for the first time in history by sending a signal through its cloudy atmosphere to bounce back off the surface.

The 750-ton reflector bowl tilted on its trunnions. This was the first time that the bowl had been tilted so far.



Some idea of the giant size of the telescope can be gained from this photograph of a girl climbing the wide open spaces of the curved reflector bowl. Built on a cradle of steel scaffolding, it has 7,000 steel plates, each separately welded.

SAUCERS AND PSYCHISM

Specially written for the

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

by TREVOR JAMES

author of

'They Live in the Sky'

ANY investigation, government or personal, which does not take into account the psychic aspects of UFO phenomena, cannot be considered either truly scientific or exhaustive. Using the term "psychic" in its dictionary meaning of "beyond known physical processes," it is evident that the term applies to a large number of sightings and experiences with the UFO, and to virtually all those that are most puzzling to orthodox investigation.

The mistake has been made in the United States of confusing "psychic" in the sense defined above, with psychological phenomena. While psychologists have been employed in large-scale Government investigations, their presence has been more in the form of a sop to constituted psychology than a determined effort to delve into that which is psychic. This has been due to the natural reaction of the unlearned when confronted with things that are "beyond known physical processes," which is to turn to a psychological explanation or rationalization. Especially is this so where contact stories are concerned, most of them involving well-meaning but relatively uneducated people.

Conventions ignored

With the term "the unlearned" we are bound to include all investigators, regardless of their academic accomplishments, who persist in insisting that that which is beyond known physical processes is invalid, unreal, or something to be shoved off on the psychologists and psychiatrists.

Known physical processes, within which all investigation currently deemed scientific must confine itself, are often transcended by the UFO, who ride roughshod over our conventions with the same ease as they whiz through our atmosphere.

Two particular types of manifestations have occurred again and again in various parts of the world, and are classic examples of psychic phenomena in the sense we have defined it. The first of these is the UFO which appears and disappears before the eyes. The second of these is the UFO which returns a radar echo, permits its course and intelligent control to become evident, but defies optical observation by pilots vectored on it by ground radar. These two classes of sightings involving UFO knock known physical processes into a cosmic cocked hat, and, in the second type mentioned, provide scientific evidence of their transcendental nature. The investigator who therefore claims that there is no scientific evidence of psychic phenomena, either has not read his dictionary or is eliminating the given meaning from his personal interpretation of psychic. Either way, he is on thin ice.

A certain amount of bumbling and rather childish rationalizing is offered relative to disappearing and invisible UFO, but the scientists who are confined to known physical phenomena are clearly beaten when the psychic is so thrust at them, complete with electronic evidence of its reality.

The starting point

The intelligent investigator at this point departs from the beaten path, for the simple reason that he must, if he is literally an *investigator*, begin investigating the nature of such happenings.

The starting point lies in the examination of man himself, the microcosm. His physical makeup has been established empirically as a rather unimpressive list of chemicals. No amount of juggling with retorts and test-tubes in a lab and a comparable quantity of the same chemicals can produce a man, or ever will. Nor can it ever produce the genius of a Bernard Shaw or a Da Vinci. It is obvious to the simplest intellect that the chemical aggregation of the body is activated by an unseen force, which lies beyond the known physical processes. This unseen force makes the difference between that which is a man and that which is nothing more or less than meat. Without this unseen force, and when it leaves at death, man becomes again chemicals as far as this plane of life is concerned.

Yet no sane scientist can say that the activating force which comes and goes is unreal, since the difference between its presence and absence is an *observable reality*. Not only that, but this observable reality can be viewed dozens of times daily if desired by visiting large hospitals. It is therefore both unscientific and irrational to state that there is no difference between a living human and a corpse. The cause of the difference is psychic, but it is as real as a punch in the nose.

The idea is continually foisted upon humanity by science, press and clergy that psychism is an illusion, or a mental disturbance, and that man, by inference, is a lump of meat. In actual fact, the presence of life in the body, and its departure in due time, is something which is beyond known physical processes, since the presence of the activating force cannot be physically explained by physical principles.

Potent knowledge

Proper study of this force which transforms man from inert matter into a vehicle for the manifestation of that which is invisible, leads the investigator into contact with the greatest corpus of knowledge in existence. The knowledge of man's psychic side, which is clearly the all-important side, has in some instances been handed down for thousands of years. It is as real, and as scientific, and as potent, as any of the knowledge held about the physical universe by regular science.

In the age we are entering, this knowledge of the psychic side of man is absolutely indispensable to proper evaluations of mankind's role in the physical universe, let alone his role in the invisible worlds from whence the invisible activating force is manifested through the physical. In no phase of the current general life of this planet does this knowledge have more important application than in the study of the UFO, and of travel in space.

An invisible realm

My own investigations into invisible UFOs were sparked by two factors. First, the obvious bankruptcy of conventional science when dealing with "mat and demat" UFOs, constrained the opinion that these weird vehicles were coming from and going to an optically invisible realm. Secondly, by the establishment of telepathic contact with invisible beings *who never purported to be anything else but invisible to humans*, suggestions were made available as to how the factor of their invisibility might be established in the general interest.

The general trend of our work is outlined in my book *They Live In The Sky**, in which indications are offered for experimental work with infra-red film, and which any sincere investigator may undertake for himself.

The idea of something coming from and going to an invisible realm is the most rational conclusion to draw *when* it is considered that every day living human bodies become meat as the activating force withdraws to a superphysical, invisible realm, in the death process. Similarly, every day in the birth process human bodies are being enlivened by invisible activating forces which transform them from meat into the highest product of evolution known on earth, man.

Invisible realms

It is obvious from the instances of "mat and demat" that a great deal of activity is carried on in these invisible realms from which certain UFOs have been observed to emerge, and to which they have been observed to ascend. It is equally obvious that the most important part of man functions and hails from an invisible realm. Is it not a reasonable assumption that with certain persons contact might be had IN THESE INVISIBLE REALMS with occupants of the UFO? And is it not also a reasonable assumption that in these invisible but real worlds experiences may be had with UFOs that are in the dictionary sense employed in this article "psychic" experiences? These concepts begin to reveal the role of psychism in flying saucer experiences, and they compel the attention of all who do not accept the implicit concept that man is two dollars' worth of chemicals and NOTHING MORE.

It is beyond question to investigators of man's spiritual nature that the majority of UFO contacts have taken place in the psychic way described. The immediate reaction of the materialist is to discount them all as mental aberrations. Thus does he *cut himself off* not only from proper evaluation of the UFO mystery, but from the cardinal truth about the UFO, which is that they come from and return to an invisible realm. That certain humans have access to this same realm is not at all difficult to understand, when we consider that the force that makes a human live is invisible. We are minds with bodies, not bodies with minds, as the application of elementary logic clearly reveals.

In *They Live In The Sky* it was shown that many of these UFO entities are by no means intent on our rescue. Many unethical and destructive acts have been performed by them. What is

* New Age Publishing Co., 1542 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, 26, Calif.

CONGRESS HAS HELD A SECRET DEBATE

HUSH ON SAUCERS

In our September/October issue we printed a lively discussion on the subject of the alleged conspiracy of silence on the part of various governments. We print below a verbatim account from the American *Congressional Record — Appendix* which will tend to support those who hold that vital information about flying saucers is being held from the public. It should be remembered, however, that the secret debate referred to may not have contained anything of great importance. The Government could scarcely have said less in its public pronouncements, so it would be easy to improve upon these. Also, hardly any secret debate remains secret for long — they nearly always leak, even under the stringent conditions imposed in time of war.

"Pressing for Flying Saucer Inquiry

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. EDGAR W. HIESTAND
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 15, 1959

Mr. HIESTAND. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include today the first of three articles by the well known and highly respected commentator, Mr. George Todt of the North Hollywood (Calif.) Valley Times.

Mr. Todt's subject, 'Flying Saucers,' is one that has held public attention for several years. It has drawn the interest of many of our colleagues also. It has become a very controversial subject and reaction to it runs the emotional gauntlet through humor, fear, and a healthy desire for more information and knowledge. We are indebted to Mr. Todt for his penetrating analysis of this matter:

PRESSING FOR FLYING SAUCER INQUIRY

The drive for open hearings in Congress relative to the flying saucer mystery seems to be gathering momentum these days.

According to the June issue of the UFO Investigator, publication of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP, 1536 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, D.C.: Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, director), many highly regarded solons on Capitol Hill have expressed serious desires to get to the bottom of the controversial matter.

'There is little doubt,' said Senator STUART SYMINGTON, former Secretary of the Air

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invisible realms has been established by my own photographic experiments. Together with my associates, I have shown that living creatures of a previously unsuspected nature, quite invisible, live and move in our atmosphere. This work of ours merely proves in a very forceful manner that radar observations of optically invisible objects are not aberrations. It also proves that we are about to move into a new concept of reality, which again will have a new borderland beyond itself.

So it is that the "scientific" investigator, excluding that which is psychic or beyond the known processes of reality, has been unable to supply satisfactory answers to the UFO mystery. Government investigation, carried on in this way, is bound to be completely misleading and false, if only *because* the psychic side has been omitted. Furthermore, until it is admitted, and fully understood, all government reports, regardless of the purported knowledge and skills of the compilers, will remain essentially false regarding the greater realities of the UFO drama. They should be taken with a sack of salt.

The investigator with a genuine and sincere interest in the UFO, who is not fearful of what his friends or professional associates might say or think, is bound to investigate the psychic side. To say that it cannot be investigated, or anything known about it, is the worst type of scientific defeatism. And is there a man anywhere so utterly lacking in courage that he will become filled with fear at the prospect of understanding a little more of his own spiritual makeup?

The investigator who investigates the psychic side of the UFO, that which "lies beyond known physical processes," will not only have the satisfaction of getting at the truth of the matter, he will revolutionize his own thinking. He will also set in motion forces affecting his inner life that have the power to transform him beyond belief. And this is the most glittering reward offered by UFO investigation, the reward that is beyond any monetary estimate. It is worth working for.

Force, to a NICAP affiliate in New York City recently, 'that the American public has sound reason for being confused about the existence and nature of these phenomena. I am certain it would be in the interest of public understanding if a current and objective evaluation of this situation were issued.

'The public should be given all information which would not adversely affect our national security. There are undoubtedly some objects observed directly and on radarscope which are not subject to positive analysis.'

Prior to this, Senator SYMINGTON had urged the Senate Space Committee, according to the U.F.O. Investigator, to make a careful study of the UFO subject. A decision on hearings is still pending.

The interesting publication also listed statements of other prominent Members of Congress made to NICAP board members, advisers, affiliates, or individual members. Here are a few samples:

Senator BARRY GOLDWATER, of Arizona, himself a jet brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve: 'Flying saucers, unidentified flying objects or whatever you call them—are real. . . . The Air Force has a project to investigate these reports, but when you ask about them they clam up."

Senator LEVERETT B. SALTONSTALL, Massachusetts: 'As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, this is a problem in which I am deeply interested. . . . We must consider the genuine security necessities, as I am sure you appreciate, but I think there are many cases in which more information should be made available to the public.'

Senator GEORGE SMATHERS, Florida: 'The subject of flying saucers is one in which we all share a great interest.'

Representative THOMAS L. ASHLEY, Ohio: 'I share your concern over the secrecy that continues to shroud our intelligence activities on this subject, and I am in complete agreement with you that our greatest national need at this time is the dissemination of accurate information upon which responsible public opinion can be formulated.'

Representative WILLIAM H. AYRES, Ohio: 'Congressional investigations have been held and are still being held on the problems of unidentified flying objects. . . . Since most of the material presented to the committee is classified, the hearings are never printed. When conclusions are reached, they will be released, if possible.' (NICAP note: This confirms our claims of official secrecy. Our goal is the holding of open congressional hearings.)

Representative DANTE B. FASCELL, Florida: 'There are many areas where unrealistic policy keeps vital information from the American people. Certainly, accurate information concerning so-called unidentified flying objects, within the proper bounds of national security, should be made available immediately to the American public.'

Representative FRED MARSHALL, Minnesota: 'There has been growing interest in the release of military information on unidentified flying objects. . . . The subject has been discussed with appropriate committees of the Congress.'

Representative WALTER H. MOELLER, Ohio: 'I cannot help but feel that there may be some justification behind some of the UFO reports . . . I have every confidence that the American people would be able to take such information without hysteria. The fear of the unknown is always greater than fear of the known.'

Representative RALPH J. SCOTT, North Carolina: 'I quite agree with you that the general public should be allowed information thus far known about flying objects. . . . If this information could be presented to the American public in such a way as to appeal to reason, and not to emotion, I think it would be a good thing.'

One Congressman who may allow his name to be used later, stated as follows according to the UFO Observer:

'The public is not getting the straight story. We (Members of Congress) are told one thing in closed-door sessions. Then the public is told something entirely different.'

What is the real story behind the flying saucers, anyway?"

SIGHTING REPORTS

in this issue from

England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, South Africa, Canada, Papua and New Zealand

See pages 7, 18, 19, 20

NOTHING TO DO WITH SAUCERS?

The Pineville (U.S.A.) News-Sentinel on June 5, 1959, reports: "A 15-year-old boy who found 'a cat with wings' knows he has a good thing and won't sell it even for 500 dollars. Douglas Shelton resisted all offers today to buy the white, female animal he found in the woods three days ago. The animal has boneless wings that hang from each side of its back, and a tail like a squirrel. Douglas was walking with his dog near his Southern West Virginia home when the dog treed the animal. It is about 30 inches long and looks like a cross between a Persian cat and a flying squirrel. Each wing measures more than six inches from root to tip. A number of persons have visited the youth's home to see the freak of nature, and several have offered to buy it for as much as 500 dollars. But young Shelton has so far refused to sell."

From an Astronomer's Notebook

by W. Schroeder

(Author of "Practical Astronomy" and "First Stop: the Moon")

Almanac
November

2	Moon in Perigee
3	Mercury at greatest eastern elongation
4	Moon near Saturn
7	Moon's First Quarter
11	Venus at greatest western elongation
12	Algol Minimum 04.35 hrs. G.M.T.
15	Full Moon Algol Minimum 01.30 hrs. G.M.T.
16	Occultation of Aldebaran
17	Moon in Apogee Algol Minimum 22.20 hrs. G.M.T.
20	Algol Minimum 19.05 hrs. G.M.T.
23	Moon's Last Quarter
24	Mercury in Inferior Conjunction
27	Moon near Venus
30	New Moon Moon in Perigee

Almanac
December

2	Moon near Saturn Algol Minimum 06.25 hrs. G.M.T.
5	Jupiter in Conjunction Algol Minimum 03.10 hrs. G.M.T.
7	Moon's First Quarter Algol Minimum 24.00 G.M.T.
9-14	Geminids. Maximum activity of this meteor shower occurs on Dec. 12.
10	Algol Minimum 20.50 hrs. G.M.T.
12	Mercury in greatest western elongation
14	Moon in Apogee
15	Full Moon
22	Winter Solstice, shortest day of the year
23	Moon's Last Quarter
25	Algol Minimum 04.55 hrs. G.M.T.
28	Algol Minimum 01.40 hrs. G.M.T.
29	New Moon Moon in Perigee
30	Algol Minimum 22.30 hrs. G.M.T.
31	Saturn in Conjunction

The Sun and the Moon

WHILE the sun travels through the constellations Libra and Scorpio, and thus approaches the southernmost point of the ecliptic, the days become shorter and shorter until, on December 22, the sun remains above the horizon for only seven hours and fifty minutes. Although this is the shortest day of the year, it does not coincide with the dates of the earliest sunset or the latest sunrise. This is due to the fact that time, as indicated by the sun, differs from our Mean Time by an amount which can reach 16 minutes at maximum. The variation in this difference together with the shortening of the day is the reason for the fact that the earliest sunset occurs on December 12, while the latest runrise is not due until January 2.

The Full Moon of December 15 is situated near the northernmost point of the ecliptic, and it is during this night that the moon will be above the horizon longer than at any other Full Moon period of the year. In fact, the Full Moon will be visible for about 16 hours.

A particularly striking phenomenon will take place on November 16. The moon will occult Aldebaran, the brightest star in Taurus (magnitude 1.1). As seen from London, Aldebaran disappears behind the moon at 18.32 G.M.T. and reappears at 19.29. For observers in Edinburgh the times are 18.39 and 19.38.

Four weeks later, when the moon passes the same region again, its orbit will have shifted slightly, and an occultation of Aldebaran can be observed from Edinburgh and the north of Scotland only. For observers in England and Wales Aldebaran will pass south of the moon. The times of this occultation are, for Edinburgh, 02.58 G.M.T. and 03.24.

The planets

A look at Fig. 3 reveals the curious fact that all the planets are crowded together in the immediate vicinity of the sun. Only Saturn and Venus, one on each side, keep some distance at the beginning of November, but by the end of the year they, too, will have closed up, and during

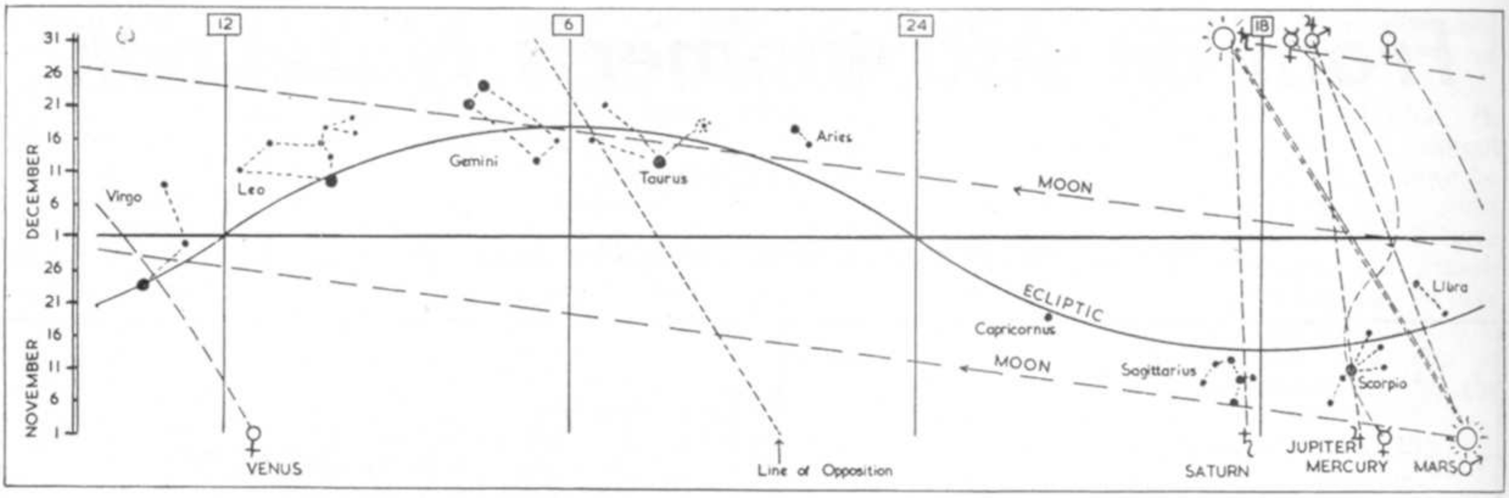

Fig. 3. The movements of Sun, Moon and Planets along the ecliptic during November and December.

the last two days of December the moon also occupies this part of the ecliptic.

Mercury, Mars and Jupiter remain so close to the sun during the whole of these two months, that it will be impossible to observe them, although it may be possible to catch a glimpse of Mercury in the morning sky just before sunrise, between December 10 and December 25.

Venus is a morning star, and rises about 3½ hours before the sun. Although Venus is gradually catching up with the sun, the distance between the two decreases very slowly so that the period during which Venus can be observed in the mornings does not appreciably alter during the two months, during which the planet moves from the constellation Leo, through Virgo and Libra into Scorpio.

At the beginning of November, Saturn sets at about 8 p.m. This means that the planet is only a short distance above the horizon by the time it gets dark enough to begin observations, and so we can do no more than register its presence, but there will be no possibility of any useful observations of the surface of the planet or of its brightest satellite Titan. By the end of the month

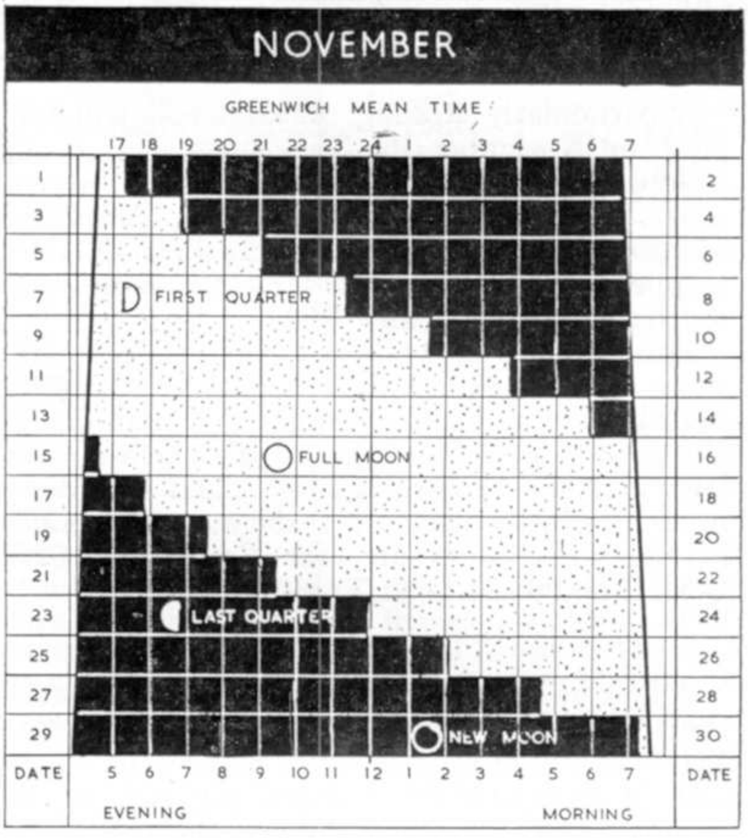

Fig. 1. Sunrise, Sunset and Moonlight in November.

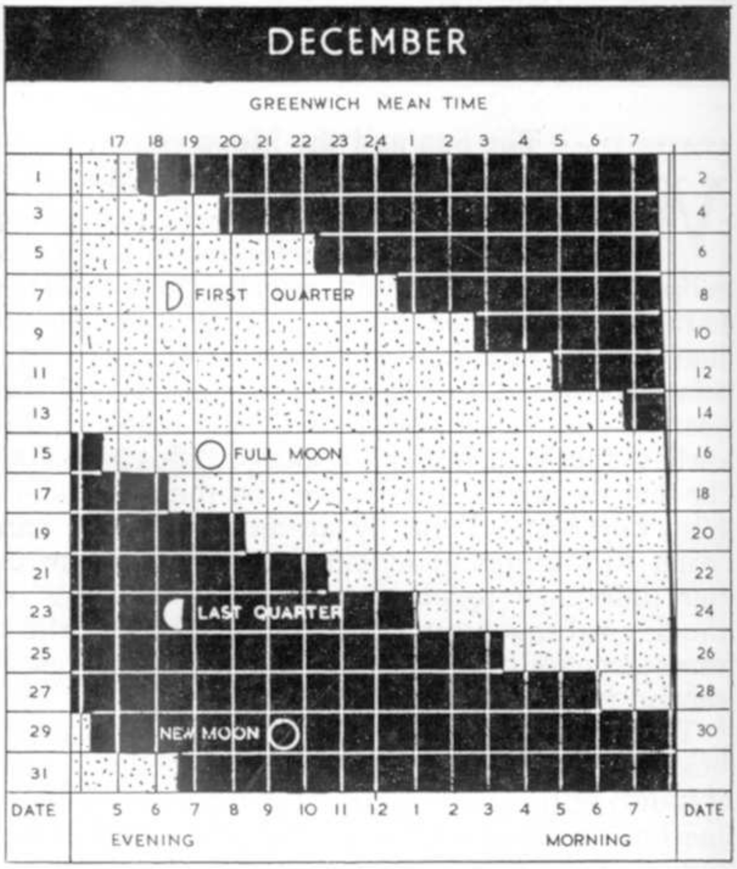

Fig. 2. Sunrise, Sunset and Moonlight in December.

Saturn sets at 6 p.m., and thus remains invisible until the planet reappears as a morning star towards the end of February.

Meteors

The Geminids can be observed from about December 5 until Christmas, but the main activity falls between the dates of December 9 and December 14, with a maximum on December 12. This shower produces fast and "short" shooting stars, and at maximum nearly 60 can be observed per hour. This is the second strongest stream of meteors, and although most of them are faint objects, the number of bright meteors in this stream is greater in proportion than with most other meteor families.

The fixed stars

The winter constellations around Orion have not yet reached their full prominence, and the southern sky is mainly dominated by the "watery" constellations Aquarius, the Waterbearer, Pisces, the Fishes, Cetus, the Whale, and the River Eridanus. This region is devoid of bright stars, and even the faint ones which are found here are rather sparsely distributed. This somewhat bare patch of the sky is surmounted by the constellations Pegusus, Andromeda, Triangulum, Aries and Taurus.

Towards the east we find the brilliant accumulation of the Winter stars, and in the west the last of the Summer constellations are about to set.

Variable stars

Mira (The Wonderful) in the constellation Cetus was the first variable star recognised as such. It was the Dutchman Johannes Fabricius who made the discovery in 1596. Mira shines with great brilliance, sometimes as bright as magnitude 1.7, for about 10 days, and then slowly fades to a minimum of magnitude 10, which is far below naked-eye visibility. It remains at this low point for a short while and then rises again to its maximum brightness. The time taken for a complete cycle is 331.6 days, about nine months. Eight of these are spent in waning, and one in returning to full brilliance again.

The diameter of Mira is about 450 times that of the Sun, but its mass is only 20 times as great as that of our sun. Consequently the matter of this super-giant of a star is so tenuous that we can compare it only with the most complete vacuum which we are able to produce with our ordinary air-suction pumps. Like most super-giants, Mira is a red star, and is apparently in the early stages of stellar evolution.

The main star of Orion, Betelgeuze, is another red super-giant, but here the fluctuations in brightness are not quite so obvious, and were not observed until 1836, when J. Herschel discovered the variability.

The Period of Betelgeuze is 2,070 days—nearly six years—and its brilliance varies between magnitudes 0.1 and 1.2.

At present, Betelgeuze is about half-way between the extremes, as its maximum occurred in 1958, while the minimum is not due until May, 1961. Mira, too, is waning just now, having been at maximum brightness on August 20, so that it will be just about disappearing from view now.

Another long-period variable is R Leporis, whose brightness varies between magnitude 6.0 and 10.4 during a period of 430 days. Its name is "Hind's Crimson Star," which not only gives an indication of its deep red colour, but also perpetuates the name of its discoverer.

Two in Taurus

In the constellation Taurus we find two stars which, under favourable conditions, can be recognised as double stars with the naked eye. These are θ (theta) and σ (sigma) Tauri.

Even the smallest instrument will separate γ^1 (psi one) Piscium, which lies in the little Y-shaped group of stars half-way between Aries and Pegasus. The magnitudes of the two components of this star are 5.5 and 5.8, and the distance between the two is 30″.

A little more difficult is ξ (zeta) Piscium, in the southern part of the constellation. Mags. 5.6 and 6.5, dist. 24″.

The "Trapezium," θ (theta) Orionis, contains four stars, but with small instruments we can see only two of these, mags. 4.9; 5.0, dist. 135″. Rather more difficult is δ (delta) Orionis, because of the great difference in brightness of the two components. Here the magnitudes are 2.5 and 6.8, and the distance is 53″.

Widely-scattered cluster

Other double stars, which are less easy to separate, and which provide some means of testing the quality of the instrument we are using, are the following: τ (tau) Tauri, ι (iota) Orionis, σ (sigma) Orionis, 30 Arietis, and β (beta) Leporis. This last one is particularly interesting, as there are actually seven stars, which the naked eye sees as one. But it requires at least a 4-in. telescope to completely resolve this star into its components.

The most widely scattered one of the open

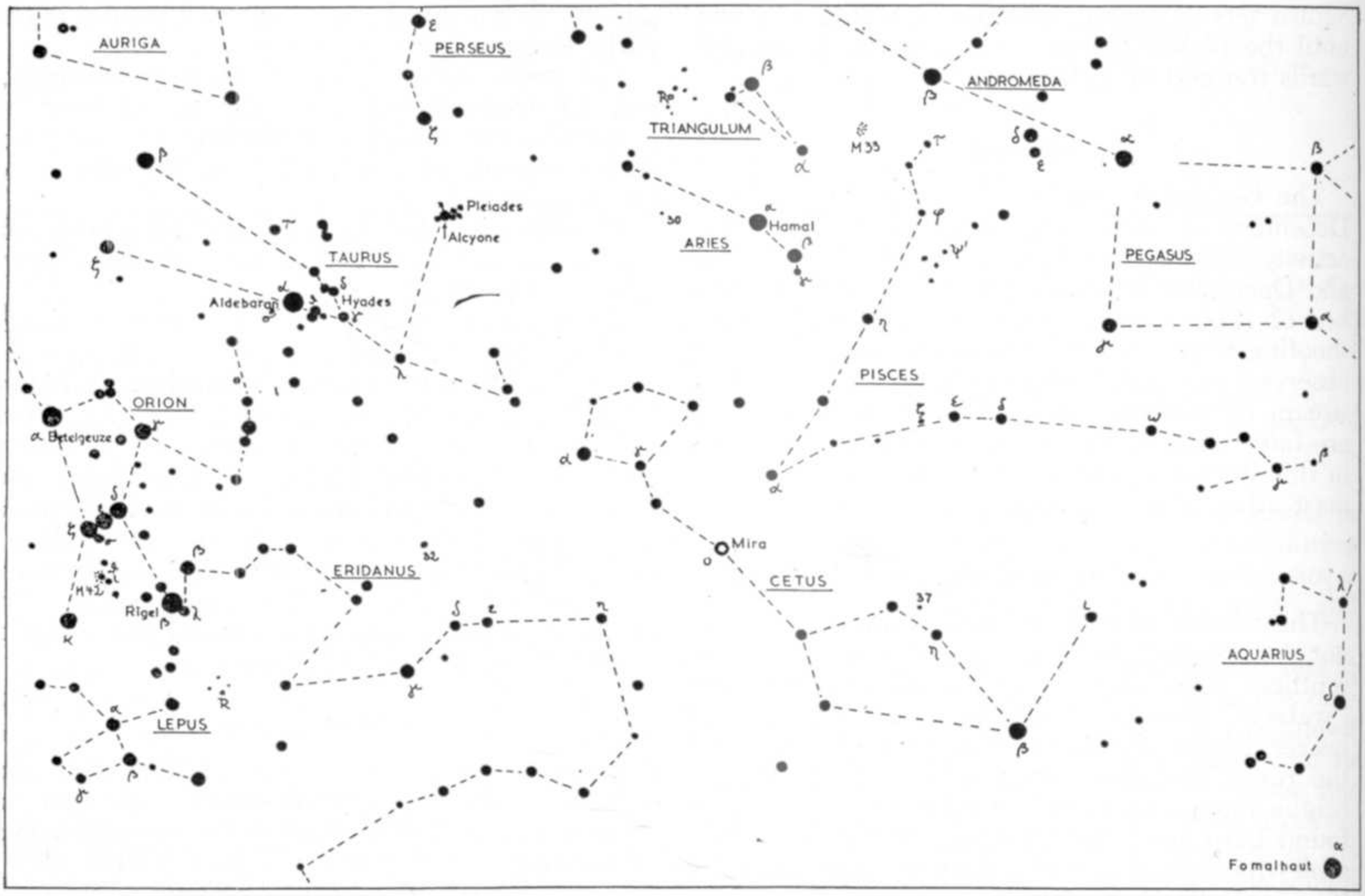

Fig. 4. The night sky during November and December, looking south at approximately 10 p.m.

clusters is the group of the Hyades in the constellation Taurus. This V-shaped group comprises about 150 stars, all of which move with the same speed towards a point in the constellation Orion. Aldebaran, although apparently situated in this cluster, does not belong to it. It is much nearer to us than the cluster itself.

The Pleiades are another open cluster, in which about 230 stars have been counted. It is said that there are seven stars visible, but normally the naked eye can see only six. However, under exceptional conditions it is possible to see nine, and opera glasses reveal several dozen.

Striking gas-nebula

A very striking object is M 42, the great gas-nebula in Orion, which contains the multiple star called the Trapezium. This nebula is at a distance of 1,700 light-years and its mass is considered to amount to about ten times that of our sun. This gas cloud can be seen with the naked eye, but binoculars will show its greenish colour and the complexity of its structure.

Our last object is M 33, a spiral nebula in Triangulum. This island universe is at a distance of 1,600,000 light-years. The central portions of this nebula are fairly bright, although it is not possible to see it with the naked eye, and its spiral structure is evident only in photographs. Nevertheless, its curious "curdled" appearance makes it well worth looking for, even if we observe with nothing larger than opera glasses.

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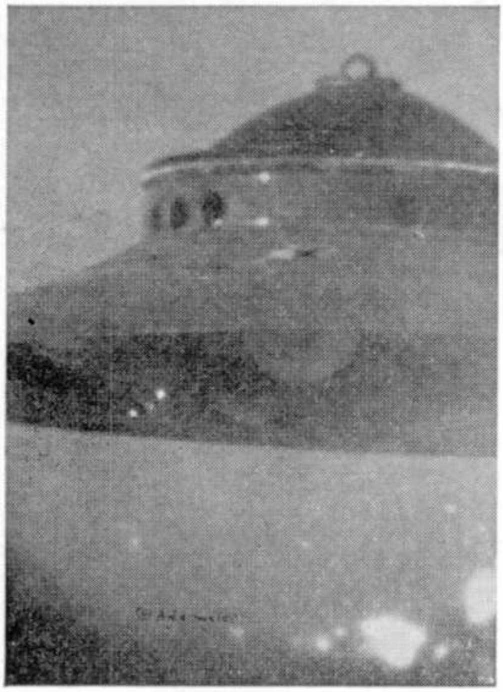
PHOTOGRAPHS



The following photographs are available in half-plate size at 1s. 6d. each (post free). Complete set of 10 for 15s. (post free).

1. Venusian scout ship photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
2. Venusian scout ship rising, showing underside details. Photographed by G. Adamski, December 13, 1952.
3. Flying saucer over New York. Photographed by August Roberts on July 28, 1952.
4. Mother ship releasing scout craft. One scout has begun to leave.
5. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Two scouts have taken off.
6. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Five scouts have left the ship.
7. Mother ship releasing scout craft. Six scouts are now to be seen.
8. Giant carrier ship photographed at 7.58 a.m., May 1, 1952, by G. Adamski.
9. Submarine type space ship, photographed March 9, 1951, by G. Adamski.
10. Space ships photographed near the moon, May 16, 1951, by G. Adamski.

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MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

A convert

Sir,

I thought you might be interested to know that very largely as a result of being lent a copy of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW I have inclined away from being a sceptic (or, at best, an 'agnostic') to first a belief and now a growing interest in the subject.

I have tried to analyse my thoughts and find that I was influenced against the subject of flying saucers by the quality of a lot of the literature which an enthusiastic friend had shown me from time to time. What surprised me so much was that the people responsible for the pamphlets, etc., which I saw were, apparently, just as keen as the sceptics to ridicule the whole subject. I remember thinking to myself that if believers were ready to treat the matter with wisecracks (none of them very good, by the way) then it must be true that there was nothing in the thing at all.

About a year ago, I saw my first copy of your periodical and its format alone impressed me. Then I read and absorbed its articles (instead of dismissing them half read) and found that the flying saucers did indeed form a serious topic worthy of serious attention. Thank you. — M. T. Wallington, Newcastle - under - Lyme, Staffordshire.

Lunik query

Sir,

Can any reader help me answer my son who has asked why it is that Sputniks burn out leaving no trace of falling when they re-enter the earth's surface whereas the Lunik II actually landed on the Moon's surface? One observatory, in Hungary, I believe, was reported as actually having seen a surface disturbance at the moment of impact.—Alastair Mindell, Shanklin, I.O.W.

What the eye didn't see

Mine is a simple testimony, but it may serve as a thought-provoker to sceptics. In a discussion with a friend about the possibility of there being flying saucers I offered as evidence of my doubts that during two trips through the Mediterranean (18 days in all) when vast stretches of the sky were open to my view I had seen nothing suggestive of UFOs.

My friend at once retorted: "Did you see any aircraft during those days?"—and I then realised that I hadn't. "But you don't doubt their existence on that score, do you?" he said, pressing home his point.—L. Edwards, Bayswater, London, W.

Is there a conspiracy?

Sir,

I found the two articles on this topic in your September/October issue among the most interesting I have read. It is extremely difficult to make up one's mind about this question. I would like to ask Mr. George Hunt Williamson, who makes out a case that there *is* a conspiracy, what is the motive behind the conspirators, official or otherwise? I can quite understand in the early days that there was a fear of the unknown and it could have been argued that it were better if the public was kept in the dark. But now? There's hardly a person in the world to whom flying saucers are totally unknown. Scores of books have been written about the topic which has also been the subject of many broadcasts, sound and television.

If there is a conspiracy of silence, this can only be explained if it were known that the saucers were hostile or in some way terrifying. Then I could understand the authorities being reluctant to encourage a belief in the subject. Mr. Williamson, however, nowhere suggests this possibility, but refers me to Keyhoe's *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*. That doesn't help very much, for it is full of allegations but very little evidence of a censorship. It is all very puzzling.—E. Siller (Mrs.), Baldock, Herts.

(*Mrs. Siller is referred to the article in this issue, "Angels or Monsters?" by Jules Lemaitre.—Editor.*)

The visitors' motives

Sir,

Your correspondent Mr. J. Cleary-Baker puts forward an interesting if not entirely novel theory for the motives behind the visits of the flying saucers. He may well be right in thinking that their recent interest in our activities has been triggered off by our atomic explosions. On the other hand, their visits may be due just to curiosity. It is possible that they are so different from us that intellectual contact is out of the question.

A further point. Mr. Cleary-Baker remarks that UFO activity in 1780 and 1870 was not comparable with that of recent years. How does he know? It is obvious that saucers are today much more in the public mind — in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries they were unthinkable—and that therefore *reports* are much more likely to be common. What we don't know, and never shall, is whether the activity of those far off years may not have been just as great but most of it went unrecorded in the newspapers. I find that very often researchers into this subject are prone to confuse *appearances* of saucers with *reports* of their appearances. How many times have we heard the question asked even by believers: "What has happened to the saucers lately?" and this very often at a moment of great activity. The questioner is really asking: "Why is it that the newspaper I happen to read has printed nothing lately about flying saucers?" — A. Williams, Prestatyn, Flints.

BOOK REVIEW

First stop, the MOON

THIS book, published by Odhams, Long Acre, London, at 18s., is by a professional astronomer, author also of *Practical Astronomy,* whose knowledge and clear exposition will be familiar to readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW from the articles he has regularly contributed for several years. The book's appearance coincided with the successful Russian moon-shot by Lunik II, the first record in history of any object being despatched from earth to reach another heavenly body. As this review is being written, the newspapers announce another success in sending a television-carrying satellite into orbit around the moon; before you read it you may have learnt something about the other side of the moon—the side we never see, because the moon always presents approximately the same face to the earth.

Mr. Schroeder believes that intelligent creatures in other parts of the universe will not be *human,* although the odds are in favour of their having eyes and walking upright. He is content to speculate on our visiting them, although he thinks they may have tried unsuccessfully to contact us by radio in the past and given it up. But, if we are about to go there, could they not have made discreet visits here and be doing so again, a little more openly now?

This book is especially interesting in its description of the rocket systems used in launching satellites and the probable ways in which nuclear power will be used in future rockets. Our scientists are certainly moving in that direction and we should, therefore, keep ourselves up-to-date. But, is it not a little rash to assert that we shall never be able to influence gravitational fields "because gravity is simply a property of matter and thus exists just like matter itself" (p. 15)? I have a suspicion that this quotation would be nonsense to a physicist: it is only in recent years that gravity has been recognised as a field of force but the tremendous implication of that concept is that we may expect to discover how to manipulate it, just as we already establish and reverse electrical and magnetic force-fields.

The sub-title of the book, "A Look into the Future of Space Travel," indicates its theme and all who are interested in the exploration of space should read it in order to learn how the subject appears to a present-day conventional but enlightened and imaginative astronomer. The book is to be welcomed not least because its approach to the subject is a healthy one. **JOHN LADE**

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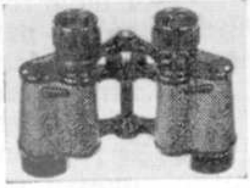

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